MacFORMAT ISSUE 213 October 2009

101 best-ever Mac tips > Final Cut Studio & Logic Studio reviewed > Group Test: Mac monitors > The opening of an Apple Store Printed in the UK

Mac FORMAT

All your Apple needs

>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 213 October 2009

SNOW LEOPARD UNLEASHED!

FULL DETAILS SEE P6
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to MacFormat, the UK's No. 1 Mac magazine

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What a month! Not only does Apple grace us with new versions of *Final Cut Studio* and *Logic Studio* but it also releases OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard early. Will you be upgrading? At just £25 I can't think of a reason not to. Sure, you don't get many 'killer' new features in Snow Leopard if you already have Leopard, but a more streamlined code base, improved *Finder* and *QuickTime X* all sound like a good idea to me. Oh, and I just have to have the latest of everything, so count me in Apple!

While we're on the subject of new releases you should check out the re-launched **www.macformat.co.uk**. We've finally given our website the makeover it's needed for a long time. Not only does its look and feel now reflect the new-look *MacFormat*, but we've also added product reviews and the latest Mac news. Also, (and this is the feature we're most proud of) if you're a subscriber you can log in using your subscriber number and surname to access a PDF of each issue as it goes on sale. You can also access an archive of back issues stretching back to issue 200. So, there's never been a better time to subscribe to *MacFormat* – see page 28 for details of this month's special offer.

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
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Deputy Editor

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Reviews Editor

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OS X expert

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Technical wizard

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Mac FORMAT

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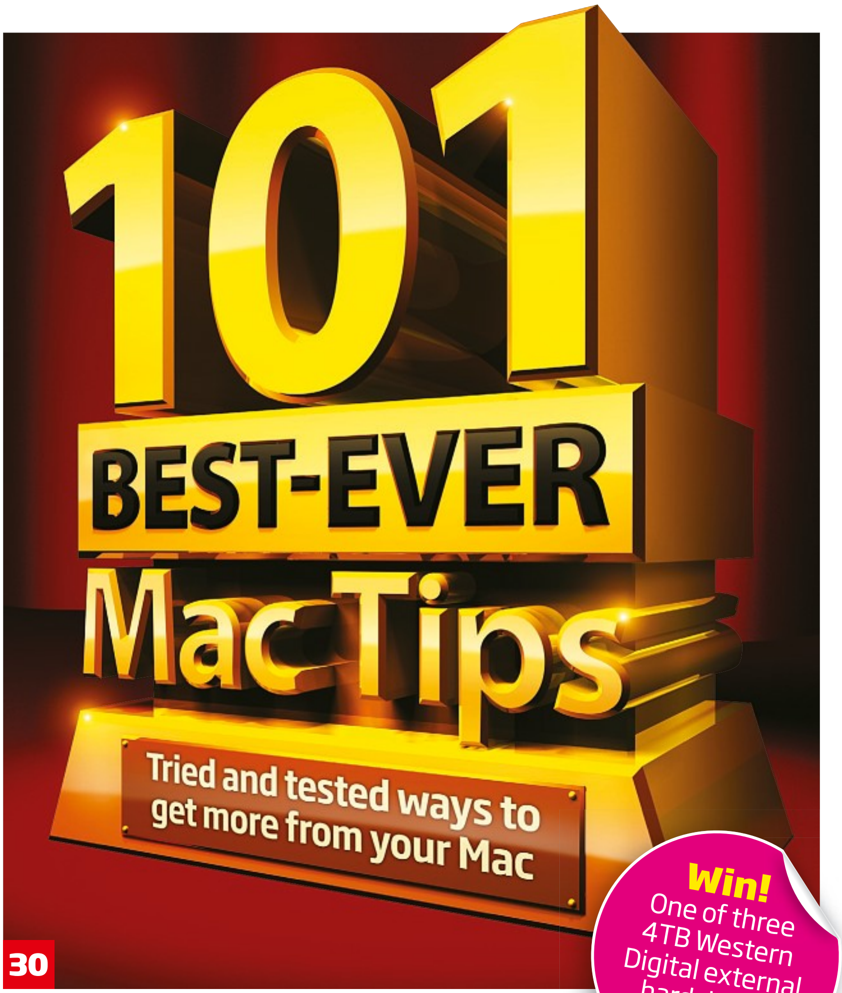
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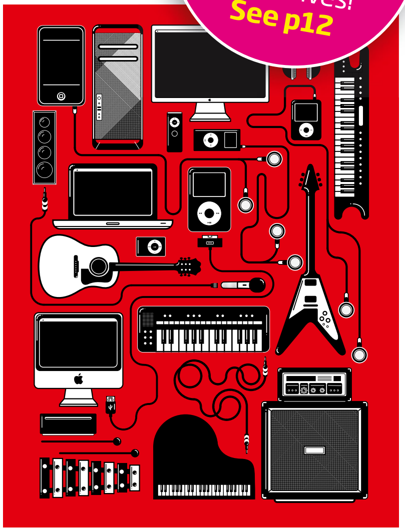

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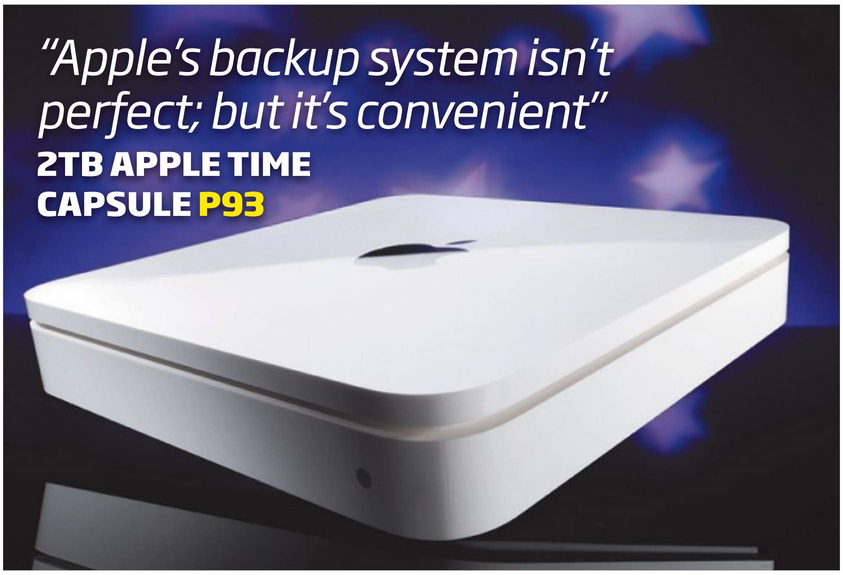

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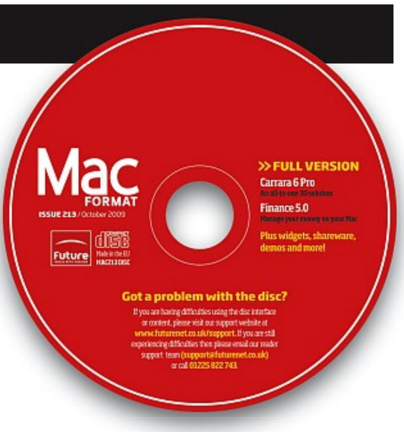
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Snow Leopard unleashed early

Earlier than expected, Mac OS X 10.6 has been released by Apple

Mac OS X Snow Leopard
The world's most advanced operating system. Finely tuned.
MacBook Pro

Snow Leopard focuses more on core performance rather than new features.

Expected in September, Apple released the final version of its next-generation OS, Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, on August 28. The 'upgrade' from 10.5 Leopard costs £25; at the time of going to press it was not clear whether it would require you to have 10.5 already on your hard disk, though that would be unusual. A Family Pack licence for Snow Leopard was also released, allowing you to install Snow Leopard onto five computers in a single household; the Family Pack is available for £39.

At the same time, Apple also released an updated version of the Mac Box Set, a single product containing Snow Leopard, *iLife '09* and *iWork '09*. At a suggested price of £129 (with a five-licence Family Pack available for £179 – very good value when you consider that each then works out at £12 per computer) the Mac Box Set is the only way that those still running Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger can upgrade to Snow Leopard.

If you bought a qualifying new Mac system from Apple or an Apple Authorised Reseller between June 8, 2009 and the end of the programme on December 26, 2009, you can upgrade to Snow Leopard for just £7.95 (including a 'shipping and handling fee') as part of Apple's Up-to-Date programme. You have to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-glare everywhere

Apple now offers a matte display (anti-glare) screen as a build-to-order option on the 15-inch MacBook Pro. This option, previously only available with the 17-inch model, can be included for an extra £40 on top of the base price.

APPLE IN PICTURES / Underworld all over the world

UNDERWORLD AND APPLE

Underworld are developing an iPhone App and last month streamed a live gig video to iPhones. It's now available to replay.

request your upgrade within 90 days of buying the qualifying Mac, or by December 26, 2009, whichever comes first. For more information on the programme, go to www.apple.com/uk/macosx/uptodate.

"Snow Leopard builds on our most successful operating system ever and we're happy to get it to users earlier than expected," said Bertrand Serlet, Apple's Senior Vice President of Software Engineering. "For just £25, Leopard users will get a smooth upgrade to the world's most advanced operating system and the only system with built-in *Exchange* support."

But while support for the *Exchange* mail, contacts and calendaring server system is one of the few big, customer-facing features in the new operating system, it's by no means the only reason to upgrade. Snow Leopard is focussed on improving performance under the hood, rewriting core components both so that they'll perform better now, and to position the operating system for innovation in the years to come.

Snow Leopard also introduces technologies such as Crand Central Dispatch, designed to help developers write applications that would easily take advantage of the multi-core nature of modern processors. There is also a 64-bit foundation, which will let the computer address more than 4GB RAM – something that will help manipulate large images and other chunks of data. These may not provide especially tangible benefits in the early days of Snow Leopard, but as more developers learn to take advantage of its core technologies, we should see more advances.

Apple also launched the server edition of Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard. Priced at £399 for unlimited client licenses, Snow Leopard Server includes a simplified configuration assistant, an *iCal Server 2*, *Podcast Producer 2*, a server module for Wiki-style pages and *Address Book*, and a portal through which you can access firewall-protected services from an iPhone or Mobile Mac. Most other server operating systems are more expensive when the client licences are taken into account. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

82%

Amount of iPhone users who actively download Apps.

"The internet has gotten out of hand and the problem is inboxes…"

Christopher Phin is having trouble keeping order.

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Steve Jobs
www.apple.com
"Eric (Schmidt) has been an excellent Board member for Apple, investing his time, talent, passion and wisdom to help make Apple successful."
Jobs bids Schmidt farewell.

Bill Campbell
www.apple.com
"He has personal idiosyncrasies …. But there is not a thing he does that is not perfect. He cares about every pixel on the screen and surrounds himself with people who believe in the same way he does."
Apple board member respects Steve Jobs

Edgar Bronfman
www.wmg.com
"iPhone sales are expanding digital music activity and raising the profile of mobile music."
Warner boss loves iPhone.

Jonathan Kromrey
www.namcobandaigames.com
"There's a gold rush to make apps for the App Store and Namco is at the forefront."
Namco boss is App happy

Chris Umiastowski
www.tdsresearch.com
"RIM has a lot of catching up to do in the non-enterprise space."
An analyst sagely notes...

Heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Inbox insanity

Christopher Phin

The internet has gotten out of hand and the problem is one of inboxes. Even just a decade ago, you were less likely to receive electronic mail as frequently as actual letters through your front door. Today, though, email floods in, and most of us have more than one address. (Just counting those that I check regularly, I have four email addresses.)

But here's the thing: email addresses tell only part of the story. You have other 'inboxes' too – if we accept that an inbox is something you check to see if there are new messages. If you use Twitter, you can think of Mentions and Direct Messages as two discrete inboxes (that's my total up to six); Facebook adds its own inbox (seven), and your Wall is another (eight). Flickr has its own messaging system (nine), plus notifications of comments, favourites and the like (10). eBay and LinkedIn have mail systems (12), forums usually feature thread notifications and private messages (taking my total to 16, when I add my regular forums), and banks lock correspondence with you away behind logins (20).

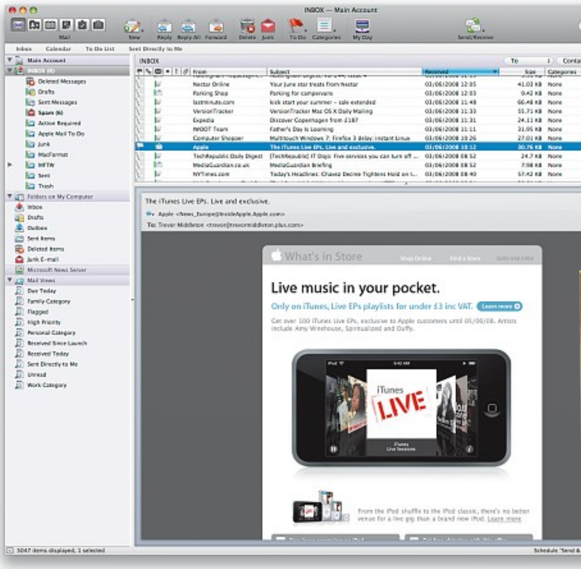
> *"Even just looking at services I use regularly, I've managed to get my total inbox count to 20… an astonishing figure"*

Even just looking at services I use regularly, I've managed to get my total inbox count to 20 – and that's an astonishing figure when you consider both how long you'll spend logging into these services over your lifetime, and how much brainspace you'll use up mentally corralling and digesting the information they contain. I realised I was suffering from a background 'inbox stress' after doing this exercise.

There are some ways to mitigate these concerns; many sites allow alerts to be pushed to email, where they can be managed with rules and Smart Mailboxes, and apps such as *EventBox* and services such as *PeopleBrowsr* help to aggregate social networking sites in increasingly useful ways. But it's still a heterogeneous mess.

In the meantime, though, here's a public safety announcement: your mental tranquillity decreases with every inbox, so beware. And stop signing up to new social networking sites…

Christopher Phin is pining for the days of yore and would like to receive some lovingly handwritten letters (usual address, please).



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From
Subject
Received
Size
Categories
Projects
iTunes
LIVE

Microsoft won't ship the new version of Office: Mac until 2010.

Office:mac 2008
HOME&STUDENT EDITION
Microsoft

>> MICROSOFT UPDATE

Next-gen Office to offer Outlook

Microsoft announces Office news for 2010

Microsoft is now making the promise that the next edition of Microsoft *Office* for Mac will be released in late 2010. The new edition of the venerable office suite will include *Outlook for Mac*, a new application that will replace *Entourage*.

For current *Entourage* users, Microsoft *Entourage 2008 for Mac, Web Services Edition* is available now. This offers performance and reliability improvements and lets users sync Tasks, Notes and Categories. It also provides much faster data synchronisation for current *Entourage* users on *Exchange*, who now get better email and calendaring support.

"We will bring forward all the functionality from the *Entourage Web Services Edition*, including public folders, managed folders and category syncing, but with *Outlook* we're going even further and building a whole new application," said Eric Wilfrid, Microsoft Mac Business Unit General Manager.

Outlook for Mac will be built using Mac OS X's Cocoa development environment, meaning it will work as a Mac app should. It will also feature a high-speed file-based database with Spotlight and *Time Machine* support. *Outlook*'s promised capabilities include support for permission-based information rights management controls.

However, Microsoft's move may prove too little too late, as Mac OS X Snow Leopard will include native support for *Exchange Server*, so business users can connect to *Exchange* data using *Mail*, *iCal* and *Address Book*, meaning many users may feel no need to invest in *Outlook*.

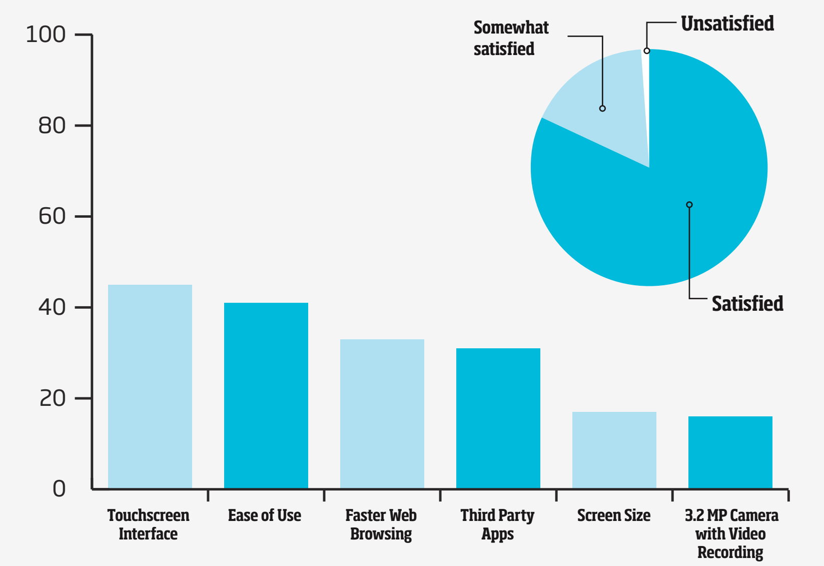
Microsoft has changed its product range: it now offers two versions of *Office 2008: Business Edition* and *Home and Student Edition*. *Business* offers business-focused resources, including templates, training and document sharing tools. It also offers *Exchange Server* support and what Microsoft is calling, "reliable compatibility with Windows-based *Office* software".

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

12.4 million

Number of photos on Flickr taken with an iPhone.

APPLE IN NUMBERS / iPhone satisfaction



The touchscreen interface remains the most-liked feature of the iPhone 3GS, recent Changewave Research figures show. The analysts revealed 99% of iPhone 3GS owners are satisfied with their device, the highest rating seen by any smartphone.

APP STORE NEWS

Apple acts on App Store woes

Schiller to improve App Store approvals

Apple's App Store is a runaway success, but its App approval policy has some developers and customers riled. Apple is moving to improve the process in a new initiative led by Worldwide Marketing Chief, Phil Schiller.

What's causing criticism is the lack of consistency from the App Store team: some Apps are accepted only to be rejected later; others are denied because they contain some sort of forbidden content, while alternative solutions using the same content are accepted.

This lack of transparency has generated a cloud of criticism, with some high-profile developers and pundits threatening to abandon the iPhone platform in protest.

Apple's not deaf to this. Schiller contacted some of the company's critics, promising to address such inconsistencies in an initiative personally led by him.

In an email sent to Daring Fireball, Schiller promised to improve the App Store process, saying, "While we may not always be perfect in our execution… our efforts are always made with the best intentions, and if we err we intend to learn and quickly improve."

With regulators taking interest in Apple's business practices and Microsoft wooing iPhone developers to bring Apps to Windows Mobile, Apple is no doubt accelerating improvements to the process, which some say isn't up to speed as Apple didn't expect apps to become such big business so fast. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

94%

Level of satisfaction among Apple's desktop users.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Apple plans to develop cloud-based services
Apple's building of large server farms has led to rumours it will develop online services, including extensions to Mobile Me and *iLife*.

HOT: Apple introducing Blu-ray support in future Macs
We think this is likely, particularly given the support for Blu-ray disc-burning within *Final Cut Studio* and rumours of support in *iTunes*.

NOT: Apple and Google to merge
With both companies now so dominant within various sectors, and firing on all cylinders, we doubt any such merger would ever win regulatory approval.

NOT: Apple to abandon NVIDIA for graphics processors
While NVIDIA GPU's installed in some MacBook Pros failed, we don't believe Apple will abandon the company just yet.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

MTV reality show, *The Hills*, could be called, *Life of a Mac*, with a plot concerning a bunch of 20-somethings in Hollywood, where, it seems, Macs are obligatory.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

ACROSS THE POND

Out of sight, out of mind?

Susie Ochs

San Francisco loves its technology. I've seen people tapping away at their laptops during Major League Baseball games, taking advantage of AT&T Park's free Wi-Fi. And iPods are nearly ubiquitous. If you take a quick glance around any city bus, you'll see familiar white cables dangling from the ears of many passengers, whether they are middle-school students or middle-aged professionals. Coffee shops have become de facto office space for laptop-toting freelance writers and programmers.

In my day-to-day movements around the city, I see a lot of mobile devices in a lot of diverse hands. But what I don't see are netbooks. Outside my office, I've seen exactly two in the wild, both at faraway airports.

Admittedly, this anecdotal observation doesn't really prove anything for now. But what it does do is make it tough for me to wrap my head around who, exactly, is the audience for these things. With their anaemic specs, puny storage space, and Lilliputian form-factor, I think a netbook would not really make for that good a primary computer. But if they're being bought, instead, by gadget hounds who already have a "real" machine and just want a lightweight device for getting online 24/7, well, what about the smartphone that such a technophile more than likely already owns?

> *"Coffee shops have become de facto office space for laptop-toting freelance writers and programmers..."*

Luckily, no one's trying to sell me a netbook – yet. But when Apple finally unveils its tablet, what will interest me the most won't be what kind of processor is inside, how the keyboard works, and whether it's got the App Store. I'll be waiting to see how Apple will position it – more powerful than an iPhone, more portable than a MacBook, priced right in the middle, but please don't call it a netbook? And even more so, how it'll be marketed. If Apple can spin their magic web and convince the public that it really needs this truly unnecessary device, I'll expect to start seeing it in coffee shops, sporting events, and city buses near me.

Susie Ochs, Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*, is currently suffering the megaphone madness of life in an open-plan office.

BOARD NEWS

Google's Schmidt splits Apple

Is it over between Google and Apple?

Google CEO Eric Schmidt's departure from Apple's board was inevitable as Google works on OS design for smartphones in Android and computers in Chrome. Apple CEO, Steve Jobs, said, "As Google enters more of Apple's core businesses, with Android and now Chrome OS, Eric's effectiveness as a Board member will be diminished, since he will have to recuse himself from even larger portions of meetings due to conflicts of interest."

The split between the companies followed Apple's rejection of Google Voice. Initially thought to have been refused at the behest of AT&T, the refusal spurred the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to investigate the decision.

Both are said to have shared a non-poaching deal, meaning neither would attempt to recruit an employee of the other. Schmidt's departure has ended this detente, rumour claims.

The relationship between Apple and Google – who also share Board member, Arthur Levinson – led the Federal Trade Commission to investigate. After Schmidt quit, Richard Feinstein, Director of the Bureau of competition, warned: "We will continue to investigate remaining interlocking directorates."

Regulatory pressure may be part of the tale, but why the rift? As Android-powered smartphones ship worldwide, iSuppli analyst, Jagdish Rebello, notes: "Mobile data revenue is key to the continued health of wireless carriers and the cell phone value chain in the future. In this battle, ownership of customers and who can monetise data services and applications are up for grabs." ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

50 million

iPhones that will sell in FY2011 (Bernstein Research).

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

As I write, Apple is $160 a share. This means the shareholder has seen the money they've invested halve and double since the credit crunch crash of last autumn. The beginning of 2009 was the recent low, so the company has doubled since then. The stock is sat right on the 'resistance line'. The idea is that if you connect up the peak prices of a company you get an indicator of the limit of a rise of a share. Theories suggest breaking through this line is hard and demonstrates resistance. It could be that people who buy at a stock price peak tend to hold on as it falls, promising to sell if they get their money back. Whatever the reasons, Apple is at that position now.

If the company can break this line it should zoom up. If it can't break through it's doomed to fall back to support level. Yet as Apple's rollercoaster ride since last autumn shows, it should be easy to make a small fortune in the stock from a large one.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

This fantastic mock-up of an Apple tablet Mac was created by illustrator Adam Benton for our US sister magazine Mac|Life

>> iPHONE NEWS

Tablet tales

World class navigation tools… now for iPhone

There is evidence Apple may soon introduce a new product category as the rumours of a tablet device continue. Speculation Apple's been hatching a product like this has existed for years, with some expecting the company to introduce it this month (September). However, sources scotched this thought, telling US Apple blogger, Jim Dalrymple, "The Apple tablet will not see the light of day until the first part of 2010," he wrote.

As *MacFormat* went to press, however, a report in the *Wall Street Journal* gave further credence to the speculation at least that a tablet is in development. "Since his return in late June," said the paper, "Steve Jobs has been pouring almost all of his attention into a new touchscreen gadget that Apple is developing."

The tablet is rumoured to be something between a small netbook and an eReader, with a splash of iPhone thrown in for good measure.

Industry chatter on Apple's intentions is fierce. Reports from *Sino News* (a Chinese publication) claim competitors have halted production of their own tablets until they see what magic emerges from Cupertino.

Most believe the company will introduce a 10-inch screen, touch-sensitive device, but there's at least one analyst who thinks there may be a smaller 6-inch device also in the frame.

However, launch timing remains cloudy; despite Dalrymple's report, some still say the smaller device may ship this month, but most favour a 2010 launch for Apple's brand-new product family. ●

>> APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

14 OCTOBER

EUROPEAN MAC SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS MEETING
16-18 September
Covering Snow Leopard (desktop and server), including the new mail server, ZFS and more.

CREATIVE ALLIANCE TOUR
Autumn
Pro-photographers can join autumn dates, presented by Adobe, Apple, HP and others.

THE MUSIC SHOW, Dublin
3-4 October
Ireland's leading music and technology event offers key industry speakers and the latest technological innovation.

MACFORMAT Issue 214
14 October
Watch out for the next packed issue of the UK's most popular Mac magazine, the latest products and information for the Apple way.

STORAGE EXPO, London
14-15 October
This is the place to go to stay informed on the latest developments in data storage and content management.

TOTAL PRINT! EXPO, London
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COMPETITION

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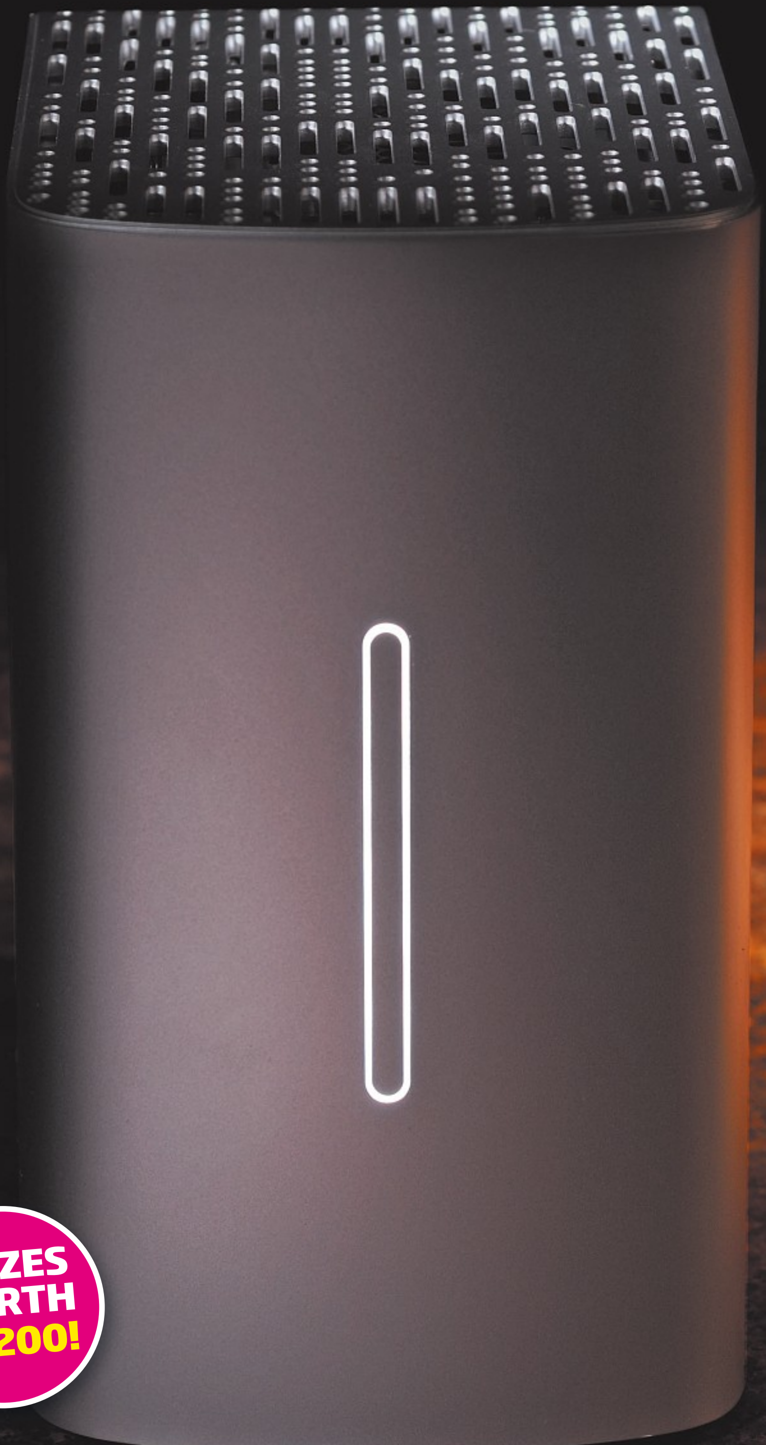

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To stand a chance of winning one of three 4TB Western Digital My Book Studio Edition II drives, just answer this simple question:

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A) Seagate
B) Western Digital
C) LaCie

For more information on Western Digital's hard drive range, including this 4TB marvel, go to **www.wdc.com**.

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text BOOK, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
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This is... computer warehouse

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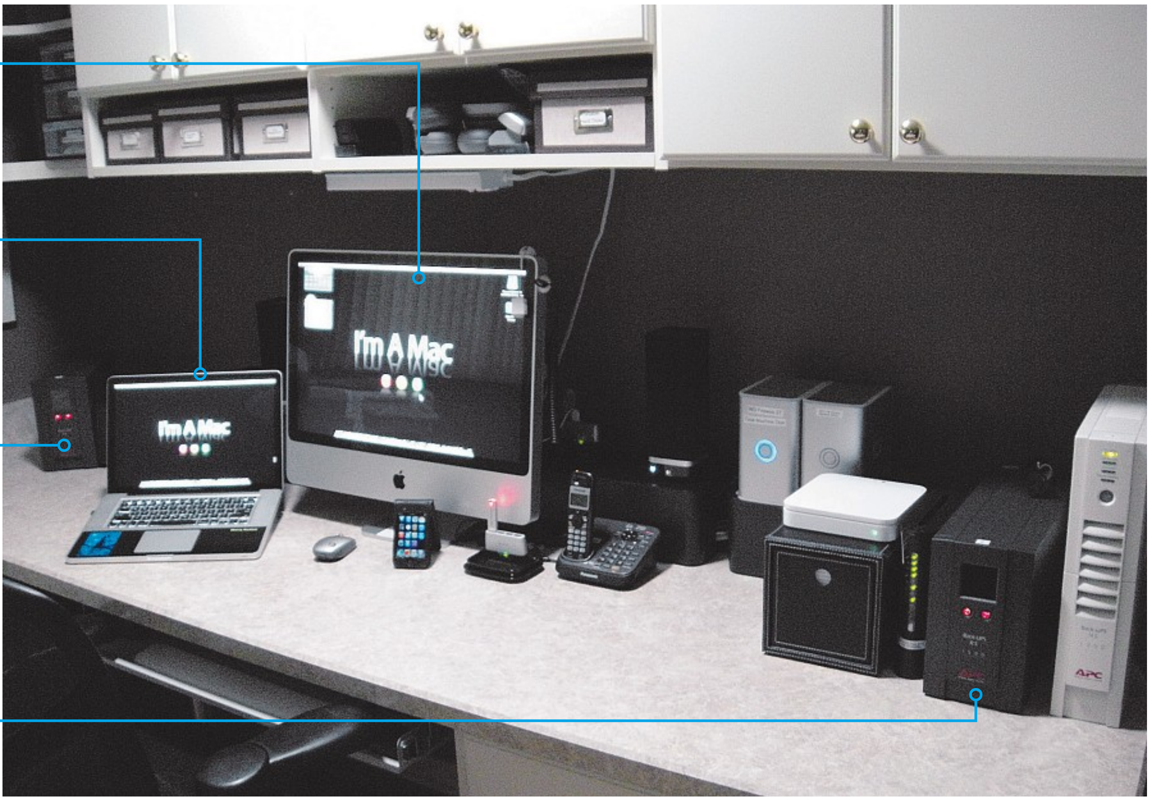
Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>> CONTACT US
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**



Apple iMac 24-inch
We can all sympathise; Sherry's iMac was replaced with a newer model right after she bought this one!

Apple MacBook Pro
The unibody design is as practical as it is beautiful, with the strong and light aluminium frame.

Logitech Z-5
Though they lack bass, we liked these speakers when we reviewed them (**www.techradar.com/484466**).

One of three UPSs!
These battery systems protect your Mac from power spikes and outages – a worthy investment!

>> PROFILE

Name: Sherry Surdam
Occupation: Retired from administrative work
Been using a Mac for: About four years
Favourite hardware: Apple iMac
Favourite software: Apple iPhoto

From the sunnier shores of Florida comes the story of Sherry Surdam, who started her email to us at *MacFormat* with some well-timed flattery: "First I want to say how much I enjoy your magazine. We have nothing like it here – we do have a Mac-based magazine but it's nowhere near as good as yours – and I'm happy to say that I've been a subscriber for as long as I've had my Macs now.

"I am a relatively new Mac convert, and I do mean convert! My original intention was to continue using both Windows and Macs, but I loved my Mac so much that the Windows PCs have all gone by the wayside. I started using a Mac because I got tired of the constant security problems associated with Windows PCs.

"I am no fan of PCs and use them only when absolutely necessary. I'm involved in a community computer club and the majority of members have PCs, so I do occasionally have to use one, but I have converted quite a few people to the Mac and will continue to encourage people to switch!"

> *"My intention was to use both Windows and Macs, but I love my Mac so much that the PCs have gone"*

As well as using her Mac to create presentations on software packages for her computer club, Sherry also uses it for photographic retouching work. "Everything I do is now on a Mac but I spend a lot of time editing old photographs; I repair and enhance for myself and others, and have refurbished photos from the 1800s. I demonstrated to my club members how easy it is to correct and enlarge old damaged photos and everyone is very impressed with what the Mac can do."

And it certainly looks like Sherry has a cracking array of kit – with enough storage to satisfy the most data-hungry of us! We're particularly pleased to see her take so much care of her data with Uninterruptible Power Supplies: "I don't leave my system running when I'm not at home because we have a great deal of trouble here with lightning storms, and even with the battery backup I could experience an unexpected shutdown if I'm away too long – I don't want to risk my equipment. Overkill I know, but I believe in safeguarding my equipment and data!" Quite right, Sherry. We wish more Mac users were so conscientious with backup and UPSs! ●

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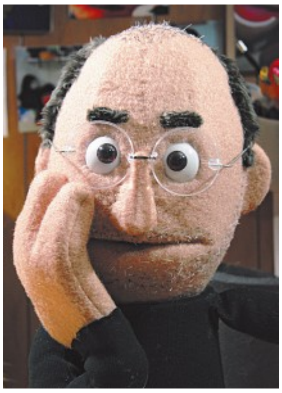

Left Brian's work uses a mixture of traditional skills with new technology, including Final Cut Express, YouTube, and of course the Apple Mac. **Centre** Gideon takes time out from his hectic puppet lifestyle. **Above** A pensive Steve Jobs as immortalised in felt.

I use my Mac for online videos

Craig Grannell talks to Brian Hogg and finds out whether puppets and Macs mix

>>PROFILE

Name: Brian Hogg
Location: Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Occupation: Designer, puppeteer and filmmaker
System: MacBook Pro
Web: www.hoggworks.com

MacFormat: What do you do and how are Macs involved?

Brian Hogg: For money, I'm a software developer, but for passion, I'm a writer, puppeteer and filmmaker. I use *Scrivener* for writing, and *CS4*, *Final Cut Express* and *iMovie* to create the visuals for my puppet videos.

MF: How do you get the ideas for your puppets and shows?

BH: It depends on the show or puppet. With *dotBoom* – a show about web designers who hate themselves – I had the idea to make a dark comedy set in the web industry, and randomly chose puppets. *Ask Palpatine* was down to a conversation I had with my little brother! For the puppets, sometimes I'll need a puppet and have to make something that works. Other times, I'll have a visual idea and start building or find a way to make it fit something I already need to do.

MF: What has been your favourite creation?

BH: So far, *dotBoom*. It was the first show I made and had a large scope and fun story. But I've since exceeded it on many levels, with better puppet-building, puppetry and so on. To get a good sense of what we do, and how well we can perform, I always recommend our most recent show.

MF: What do you think about your marriage of old and new – puppetry and computers?

BH: It's a wonderfully anachronistic thing. One of my private jokes in making *dotBoom* was how I leveraged the awesome power of the internet to deliver these little low-tech puppets! And Macs enable me to edit video on a level that just wasn't possible a few years ago. Greenscreening is also really handy, because I can create crowd scenes using a handful of puppets, and increase the scope and number of perceived locations for the shows. It lets me fake a higher budget!

MF: What are your future plans?

BH: We're planning a *Battlestar Galactica* parody, featuring the most technically sophisticated puppets we've built. We're also continuing with some smaller shows. *dotBoom season 2* is perpetually in the works, along with some top-secret projects. The Macs will be crucial throughout, getting my puppets into video in a finished, polished form. ●

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◀ Kensington Charging Dock with Mini Battery Pack

£TBA **http://uk.kensington.com**

What is it? iPod and iPhone charging docks are ten a penny, but this one also charges up a mobile battery pack for recharging on the move.

When's it due? Available to pre-order.

Why are we excited? The iPhone's battery life is one of its drawbacks. With this device, you can charge your iPhone and portable battery overnight to make sure you're juiced up for the day.

▶ Nikon COOLPIX S1000pj

£400 **www.europe-nikon.com**

What is it? A camera. Obviously. But it's one with a difference. The COOLPIX also doubles up as a projector, which can beam your snaps onto any flat surface. It's 12.1MP and can project an image of between five and 40 inches.

When's it due? It's out now.

Why are we excited? At last, you can show your photos and movies to your friends and family without squinting at a tiny LCD or plugging into a television set.

Nikon
COOLPIX
NIKKOR 5X WIDE
OPTICAL ZOOM VR
5.0-25.0mm 1:3.9-5.8

▲ LG GD910 Phone Watch

£TBA **www.orange.co.uk**

What is it? This mobile phone in your digital watch is convergence gone mad. Boasting a 1.43-inch touchscreen display and voice dialling, it comes with a Bluetooth headset, so you don't need to walk around with your wrist glued to your ear.

When's it due? It should be out by the time you read this.

Why are we excited? We love the concept, though we won't be trading in our iPhones any time soon.

▶ GoPro HD Helmet HERO

£TBA www.goprocamera.com

What is it? Ever tried taping a camera to your body and filming yourself mountain biking, skateboarding or indulging in some other adrenaline-pumping activity? Us neither – but if you want to capture some professional-looking footage the GoPro HD Helmet HERO, a high-def mini-camera, mounts to fit your bike, helmet or clothing.

When's it due? End of October.

Why are we excited? It gives amazing, high-definition movies of extreme sports in action.

▲ Mimo 710-S Foldable Mini-Monitor

$150 (£92)

www.mimomonitors.com

What is it? This USB mini monitor folds flat when not in use. It offers a seven-inch screen, an 800x480 resolution and both landscape and portrait orientations. It has to be ordered direct from the USA.

When's it due? Out now, in the States.

Why are we excited? It could be just the thing for your Mac mini. Not only would you have a Mac that's small enough to carry around, but you could also slip the monitor into your bag. It would make a great second screen for a MacBook Pro too.

▼ Sony GigaJuke NAS-SC500PK

£850 www.sony.co.uk

What is it? This wireless audio system with a 160GB HDD boasts a dock for the new Walkman range, and they've thrown in an iPod dock too.

When's it due? Check it out now.

Why are we excited? It's a comprehensive music server, which can be connected to your network wirelessly or through Ethernet. And it even has its own wireless mini-router.

SONY
SONY
SONY
GIGA JUKE

Feedback

>> CONTACT US

Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address:
macformat@futurenet.com

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

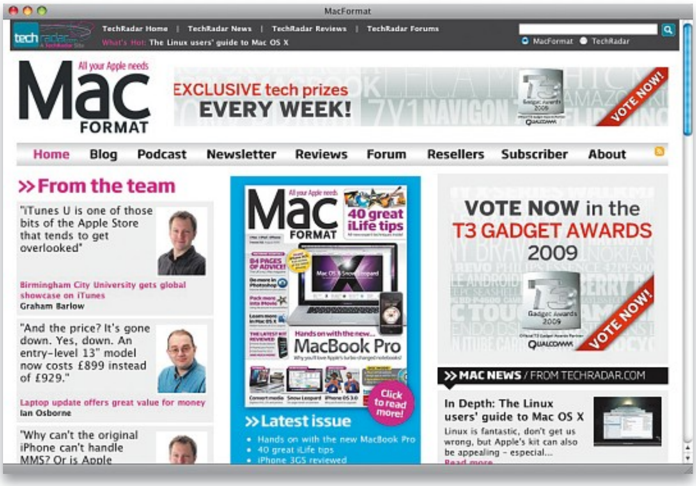
MacFormat on Clubcard points

I thought I'd let you know, just in case you didn't already, that *MacFormat* is now available from Tesco on subscription using its Clubcard reward vouchers.
Alan Rossiter

MacFormat replies: Thanks Alan; what nicer reward for buying your five-a-day than a subscription to your favourite Mac magazine!

Is MacFormat available online?

Can you tell me if your magazine is available online at all? I usually have to wait a very long time to get it from my newsagents, and sometimes they only have a limited quantity.
Mac Sel, Melbourne, Australia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"iTunes U is one of those bits of the Apple Store that tends to get overlooked"
Birmingham City University gets global showcase on iTunes
Graham Barlow

"And the price? It's gone down. Yes, down. An entry-level 13" model now costs £899 instead of £929."
Laptop update offers great value for money
Ian Osborne

"Why can't the original iPhone can't handle MMS? Or is Apple

- Hands on with the new MacBook Pro
- 40 great iLife tips
- iPhone 3GS reviewed

In Depth: The Linux users' guide to Mac OS X
Linux is fantastic, don't get us wrong, but Apple's kit can also be appealing – especial...

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MF replies: While we don't actually produce an online version of *MacFormat*, our new-look website features a subscriber area that holds an archive of PDF content from *MacFormat* issues for subscribers to download, including each current issue as it is released. Go to www.macformat.co.uk – all you need to have to get the PDFs is your subscriber number and your surname. If you're not already a subscriber then see page 28 of this issue for a special offer.

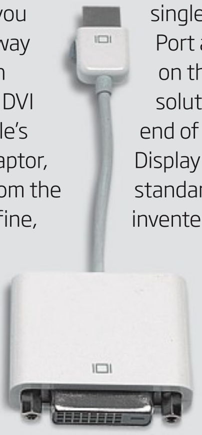
Canon MP620 problems

On your recommendation in the Buyers Guide, I bought a Canon PIXMA MP 620. Big mistake. It worked well with my MacBook running 10.4.11, but when I tried using it on my MacBook Air running 10.5.7, the installer could not find a drive for the scanner – neither could I. I checked the disk, my drive and scoured the internet with no luck. When I contacted Canon, they replied, "Unfortunately the scanning function is not supported by the MP620 with your Mac OS. Therefore there are no scanner driver downloads as well as no Canon IJ Scanner Utility downloads available. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused." Inconvenience! They

>> STAR LETTER / MiniDisplay Port cables

I just bought one of the new 13-inch MacBook Pro notebooks and in the office I connect it up to my 24" DVI monitor. I did buy an adaptor with the notebook but then decided I needed a nice minimalist lead. However, no-one seems to make one. I searched the net and the Apple Store, and not a cable in sight. If the Mini DisplayPort is the way forward for graphics, Apple or some third-party manufacturers could at least make a cable?
David Piper

MacFormat replies: As you rightly say David, the only way to connect the new 13-inch MacBook Pro to a standard DVI monitor is to purchase Apple's Mini DisplayPort-to-DVI adaptor, then plug your DVI cable from the monitor into that. It works fine, but it's a bit of a clunky solution because it requires two leads. A single cable with MiniDisplay Port at one end and a male DVI on the other would be a better solution. There is light at the end of the tunnel though. While DisplayPort is an industry standard, Mini DisplayPort was invented by Apple. The good news is that they have opened the standard up to the rest of the industry, so there's nothing to stop a company creating what you are looking for.



The adaptor that connects the new MacBook Pro to a standard DVI monitor.

STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

talk as if the scanner is a minor add-on to their product – which is advertised as an all-in-one printer/scanner.

Please let me know where I can find the scanner drive for OS 10.5. Also tell Canon.

If you cannot help on that front, then I suggest you strip the 4.5-star rating you gave the MP620, and remove it from your Buyers Guide.

Bassem Abdallah

MF replies: In this case whoever you spoke to at Canon is simply wrong. If you look at Canon's own website at the following URL: http://software.canon-europe.com/products/0010642.asp you will see a scanner driver for OS X (it's the first one in the list) that clearly says it's for "Mac OS X 10.3.9, Mac OS X 10.4.x, Mac OS X 10.5.x". Installing this should solve your problem.

Networks that really work

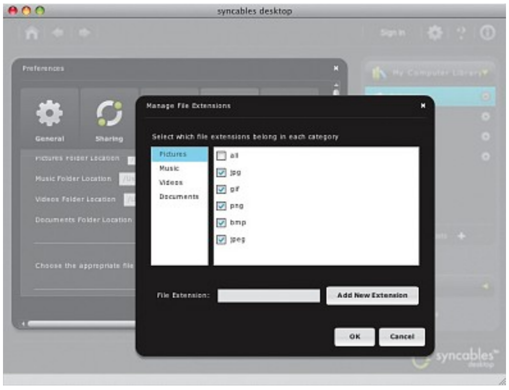
There seems to have been a promised world out there that's taking me a long time to journey to. As a non-techie it all seems as if it should be so simple, and the media have been hyping it up for so long. But when will I be able to do some simple things such as having the same *iPhoto* library on my MacBook as on my iMac – as a matter of course – and show my photos, videos and the programmes I've recorded using the excellent EyeTV on any of my televisions? Does it really need to be a) grossly expensive (see Sonos Multiroom) or b) technically overwhelming (since Leopard I can't even network my PCs with my Mac for more than 10% of the time)?

The Canon MP620 works fine as a scanner under OS X 10.5, no matter what Canon themselves say!

I've made progress with my iPod touch and MobileMe and I can sync the things I expected to be able to in the 1990s, such as email and bookmarks between iPod, laptop and desktop. And I can access files from any net-linked computer – but only if I've manually kept them up to date on my iDisk, etc, etc. When's nirvana going to arrive – off the shelf?

David Perry

MF replies: You have our sympathies David, but it's worth remembering that networking is quite simply not a trivial task. What you're asking a set of devices (often made by different manufacturers) to do is actually very complex, so it's not surprising that problems occur. Hopefully last month's feature on setting up a home network went some way to alleviating your trials and tribulations.



Keep your Macs in sync with each other with Syncables Desktop.

It would be great if Apple made an *iPhoto* sync option as part of MobileMe, but there are some third-party apps that could help you such as *Syncables Desktop* from www.syncables.com. We haven't tried it (and you should make sure you back up your iPhoto library before you do) but we can't think why you shouldn't be able to choose to sync your *iPhoto* library with it. Read our *MacFormat* review at www.techradar.com/612990.

However, there is perhaps a simpler solution to your problem. In *iPhoto*'s Preferences you can share your photos with up to five people on your local network. In *iPhoto* Preferences click on Sharing, then select Share my photos. That's it! Now your photo library will appear in the *iPhoto* sidebars of all the Macs in your house connected to your network. They'll be able to view all the photos in your collection and copy them into their own libraries. It's not true syncing of photos, but it might achieve the effect you're looking for.

Excel in Issue 210 Group Test

In your review of spreadsheet programs for the Mac you include Microsoft *Excel 2008* and in the specifications tables on page 111 you confirm that it will run macros. I recently migrated over to the Mac and bought Microsoft *Office Home Edition* (the version you

»

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
What's your favourite iPhone app and why?

minibtweet
@MacFormat after games, combo of Twitterfon Pro with Instapaper excellent feed & read apps!

Craig_Tulloch
@MacFormat Shazam Everyone who sees it in operation loves it and it has introduced me to loads of new artists.

CraigGrannell
@MacFormat Drop7! Superbly addictive to the point that I see numbered discs in my dreams.

Yongdad33
@MacFormat a tie between Twiterific & Stick wars. Both highly addictive & good fun. Meditate is at the top too!

tigsternet
@MacFormat CrunchUrl. Why? It's free & my first iPhone app.

JackPierce
@MacFormat Jared because the little yellow guy is AWESOME!

liambrazier
@MacFormat Tweetie As it is handling more of my messaging than email.

JCTurner
@MacFormat WeatherMaps shows a UK-wide forecast showing wind, rain, cloud & temp all at once or individually. Very handy

Follow what we're up to each month at Twitter.com/MacFormat

»iPHONE'S CAPACTIVE TOUCH / An issue with nails…

I love my iPhone, but when I try to wax lyrical about it to women I come across something of an obstacle. I even piqued the interest of my techno-phobic mother-in-law when she saw the feast of word games available whilst on a dull and hot tube journey. Sadly, her interest was dashed when she tried using the device. The obstacle, you see, is nails!

Unlike most other (e.g. Windows mobile) devices, the screen responds not to pressure, but to the capacitance changes generated by fingers. So, the tap of a non-conductive fingernail is water off the proverbial duck's back. Nothing. iPhone says, "No – go cut your nails, or try to stub at me with the flat bit of your fingers with minimal accuracy and no chance of seeing what you're doing".

"I am a man's device," the iPhone proclaims. "Women with nails – you are not invited to the party". Way to cut out 50% of your potential market, Apple. Way to go…

Simon Huggins

MF replies: Simon, you have a point, although it's probably a problem that will affect male guitar players who favour fingerpicking as much as ladies who like to wear their nails long. Long nails and the iPhone's capacitive touchscreen don't mix. The problem comes with the pinch gesture, which is impossible with long nails. We sense a gap in the market here for a third-party device that you can attach to your fingers to make the iPhone work for people with long nails – maybe you should head to the patent office with the idea?

reviewed) so that I could transfer my many *Excel* spreadsheets from the PC.

I was disappointed to find that MS *Excel 2008* will not run VBA macros, and in fact you cannot even record keystroke macros as far as I can see. Have I missed something?

If I'm right, can you suggest a solution? *Open Office* will attempt to run the VBA macros, but it is not fully compatible and although I could rewrite the macros to suit it, I then lose compatibility with others using *Excel*/VBA on MS Windows. (My macros are written in code rather than keystrokes.) Does the full version of MS *Office 2008* run VBA macros? Hope you can help.

Stuart Young

GROUP TEST

»SPREADSHEET PROGRAMS

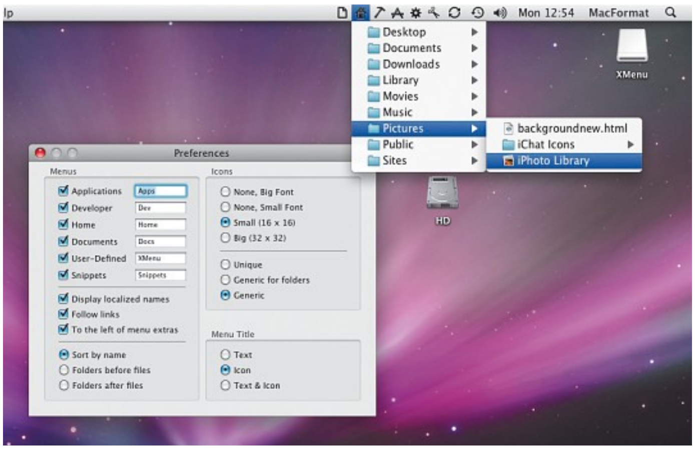
Data control

Jack Weber reads between the lines and looks at six spreadsheet programs

"From tracking sports results to solving equations, there isn't much that a spreadsheet can't help with"

On test this issue

Jack Weber replies: My apologies, there was indeed an error in the feature table that accompanied this review. I must have been getting crosseyed as I assembled the table because there should only have been one column – *OpenOffice* – indicated as having macros. Unfortunately, the extra entry slipped past my checks. Earlier versions of *Excel* had the ability to record and play VBA macros, but Microsoft withdrew support for VBA from *Excel 2008 for Mac*. The reason given at the time was that it would have taken too long to re-code VBA for the Intel processors used in current Macs. However, Microsoft did say later that they would restore VBA macros in the next version of *Office/Excel* for Mac. In the meantime, if you can find *Excel 2004* on sale anywhere, you would get VBA until such time as Microsoft sorts this problem out. It is possible to script *Excel* using *Automator*, Apple's own scripting application. Obviously, though, this is a quite different process and doesn't offer compatibility with existing VBA macros from Windows or from earlier Mac versions. Apologies again for the oversight.



Preferences

Menus
☑ Applications: Apps
☑ Developer: Dev
☑ Home: Home
☑ Documents: Docs
☑ User-Defined: XMenu
☑ Snippets: Snippets
☑ Display localized names
☑ Follow links
☑ To the left of menu extras
● Sort by name
○ Folders before files
○ Folders after files

Icons
○ None, Big Font
○ None, Small Font
● Small (16 x 16)
○ Big (32 x 32)
○ Unique
○ Generic for folders
● Generic

Menu Title
○ Text
● Icon
○ Text & Icon

Relive the OS 9 glory days with a more powerful menu bar courtesy of XMenu.

XMenu

I downloaded *XMenu* from the disc with my latest copy of *MacFormat* and was delighted to find that it largely replicates the long-forgotten Apple Menu of pre-OSX days, which I am sure many Mac users will have missed and indeed continue to miss. Now I can dig down into my folders and individual files in a straightforward, logical and elegant way. Shame on Apple that they never sought to reproduce Apple Menu in some form but instead concentrated on developing the current dock. It goes to show that the future is often inferior to the past.

Dennis Cooper

MF replies: Thanks Dennis. We also think that *XMenu* is a really useful little application, and best of all it's absolutely free! Any readers who want to use their Mac in a different way to how Apple wants them to, should head to **www.devon-technologies.com**, and download it. ●

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MacFormat investigates

The opening of

In the UK alone, Apple had 20 retail stores open on the high street. So would there be anything exciting about the opening of number 21? **Christopher Phin** went to Brighton to find out

Frankly, we weren't sure what to expect when we pitched up in Brighton at the tail end of August for the opening of Apple's 21st retail store in the UK. Of course we'd been to the opening of the first – the flagship Regent Street store in London – and had been caught up in the enthusiasm and excitement of staff and punters alike, but surely the fact that a shop is opening somewhere that already sells Apple kit is hardly something to get het up about? Boy, were we wrong.

We set off from Bath at 5:30am in order to arrive in time for a pre-opening press briefing with Nye Wright, the store's Manager, but when we rocked up to the new store in Brighton's Churchill Square shopping centre just after 8am, there was already a queue forming. (And while this isn't in the same league as the camping-out-for-days-beforehand stunts that we've seen at the opening of, say, the Regent Street and Fifth Avenue stores, we were nevertheless impressed that as the store opened –

Cheering marked the opening of the latest Apple Store, in Brighton.

Photography by Tim Richardson and Christopher Phin

an Apple Store

and even half an hour after it did – the queue was easily a couple of hundred strong.)

Hugs and high-fives

For the traditionally reserved Brits, California-flavoured Apple events are often a little awkward. You could never accuse an Apple Store employee of being surly or pessimistic, but it has to be said that, in the build-up to the opening – with the team inside the glass-fronted store hugging, swaying around in a ring, and high-fiving – that there were a few raised eyebrows and muttered, puzzled accusations of oddly cult-like behaviour. The whole morning was one of an odd mix of passion and confusion; most of the folks in the queue, by dint of their very presence, would probably say they were hardcore Apple fans, and they were rightly excited about the opening. And yet for the rest of the world there in Brighton that day, the whole event was anathema. When people learned that the whoopin' and a-hollerin' that accompanied the doors opening marked nothing more than a store opening – and, worse, that the little boxes being given out to the first few through the doors contained not 'free iPhones' as the rumour was but mere T-shirts – we were treated to the

> *"When we rocked up to Brighton's Churchill Square shopping centre at 8am, there was already a queue"*

»

»TWITTER TALK

@minibtweet (Beverley) Cool! This happened when our store opened; loved it! Only problem: the Apple T-shirts they gave out where huge! Wish I was there!

» THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE / What the locals think of the new store

You'll never meet a cheerier bunch of people than those in a queue at an Apple event, so we whipped out our iPhone, fired up the *Voice Memo* app, and had a chat with some of them.

"I'm proper excited," said Ian Thomas. "It's not my local store, but I came down to experience the store opening." Some had come on other people's behalves; one lovely lady was there just to pick up a T-shirt for her son, and, slightly further down the queue, Gary Howdel said: "My boyfriend's a big Apple Mac fan, so I've come here on his behalf!" Most were there just for the experience, but we got the feeling John Lloyd spoke for many when he said: "I'm not here to buy anything in particular, but something might take my fancy!"

Some, though, did have specific purchases in mind: "I've come to buy a computer," Bea Bright told us. "It's my first laptop with Apple. I've used them before at university and I have had other laptops, but I've been waiting for this store to open because with other retailers, they wouldn't give any discounts, and when I went to Apple in Regent Street, they said if I took things away on the day they were going to give me some discount."

High street stores let you get hands-on with new kit.

Howdel, too, was happy to see an official store in Brighton. "My experience with the other resellers in Brighton hasn't been pleasant; my boyfriend goes in and asks for something and they don't have it, or they don't have the knowledge of the products, so he normally goes up to London and goes to the Apple Store on Regent Street. I prefer to come to an official Mac store, because you get the service and you get the knowledge."

If the people we spoke to are representative, however, the Brighton Apple Store does have to prove itself in its community. Video pro Steve Tyler said: "I'll pop into the Genius Bar and see what their geniuses are like, but normally for help on *Motion*, I usually find you have to go up to Regent Street really for someone that knows what they're doing. I found, for example, that with the Bluewater Store, they know the consumer products and the technicals really well, but actually using things like *Motion* or *Final Cut* in detail – when you've got something specific that you want to look into – usually they're picking up the phone to someone who's in Regent Street."

full gamut of emotions from bafflement to scorn by way of pity.

Just before the doors opened – after being given their final pep talk by the Store Manager – all the T-shirted employees broke out of the store and did a lap of honour around the top level of Churchill Square, high-fiving all the folks in the queue. And when the doors did open after an excited countdown, the staff, lined up inside the store on either side of the door, applauded wildly and high-fived the folks in the queue as they streamed into the shop. And for many this was no mere pilgrimage; within minutes of the store opening, people were walking out carrying iMacs, MacBooks and more. Some told us they'd wanted to buy a Mac but had been waiting until Apple opened a store nearby.

Apple fans young and old flocked to the new store, which will offer free summer camps.

Brighton resellers

And yet as you might expect for such a creative part of the world, the Mac-using populace was already well-served, with existing dedicated Apple shops on the high street in both Brighton and Hove. Martin Mayr, Managing Director of Cancom, told us: "Obviously it's not the best Christmas present we've ever had. However, we've known for quite a while that there would be an Apple Store here." Indeed, another company that has long served the Brighton community, Solutions Inc, had been even more pro-active: "Solutions Inc has always supported the notion of a retail Apple shop," Richard Furber, its Retail Operations Manager, told us. "We produced a film back in 2000 for Apple UK management highlighting the potential four years before the Regent Street store opened. We filmed it in Churchill Square, Brighton, right where they now have their own store."

> *"The staff, lined up on either side of the door, applauded wildly and high-fived folks as they streamed in"*

» TWITTER TALK

@humedini (Jon Hume) I thought the opening was quite good! I was 10th in line and enjoyed a good double hi-5 on the way in!

Surely, though, Apple opening its own store in Brighton is bound to have a detrimental effect on the businesses of Cancom and Solutions Inc? Not so, according to Solution Inc's Furber: "The first week really affected the sales in our Brighton and the Hove stores, but we have already seen a great bounce back in week two. The Hove store has free parking on-site – if you are buying an iMac, Mac Pro or even a laptop, do

01

02

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04

you really want to carry it through the shopping centre back to your car? Our Brighton Store has seen a huge increase in its sales of third-party goods, and with Apple Store increasing the market share of Apple goods in the town then our sales of all digital lifestyle accessories will just get better and better."

Different league

Cancom is more guarded, however. "[While] we respect greatly their absolute professionalism in the way they developed their retail offering," Mayr says, "Apple's huge financial muscle means they are in different league to us when it comes to these kind of investments." We were reassured to see both companies recognise the strength of the Apple retail experience. "Apple Stores are the new benchmark for retailing worldwide," says Furber, "a real blessing compared to the Dixon's shopping experience of the past." Cancom's Mayr seems to speak for many of the high-street Apple specialist we speak to when he says: "For us, we wish they'd stayed at Regent Street and nowhere else."

Nevertheless, third-party stores have their own strengths. "Apple retail stores are good at what they do, but they fall a long way short of being a one-stop shop for everything. They don't sell servers or network systems, or support business users with visits to the client. The same is true for schools interested in Macs," says Furber, and Mayr is keen to stress the long-term relationships companies like his can develop with the community.

solutions inc

05

06

> *"Apple retail stores are good at what they do, but they fall short of being a one-stop shop for everything"*

01 **Nye Wright, the store's Manager, is American, but tells us he loves Brighton.**

02 **Of course the Brighton store has one of the iconic Genius Bars for tech help.**

03 **"What a great job; to get paid for smiling!" one member of staff told us.**

04 **In typical Apple Store style, all the kit is laid out on blonde wood tables.**

05 **Brighton also has two Apple Premium Resellers, including Solutions Inc...**

06 **...and Cancom, both of whom have been serving the community for years.**

» TWITTER TALK

@Dg01844 (Dean Gendron)
Viva Apple Brighton!

It's a sentiment that's echoed by Farpoint in Bath, *MacFormat*'s own local Apple Premium Reseller. "Our offer to businesses includes free consultations, full IT support, replacement machines during repairs, on-site training and support packages tailored to suit each business's individual needs and budget," says Liz Hyde, its Marketing and PR Manager. "We also have a rental service for businesses that allow more flexibility for our clients and the chance to try before you buy for new users. And you don't have to be a business to reap all of these benefits. We are also an Apple Authorised Service Provider and carry out repairs on-site here at Walcot Street. Our customers don't have to book their machines in first like you do at an Apple Store."

There's little doubt, though, that no matter how solid the service and broad the range of products offered by the traditional high-street Apple specialists, they just haven't got the magic touch that Apple seems to have when it opens a store itself. Through a strange alchemy of stellar products, peerless stage management and just a soupçon of wide-eyed cultism, there's nothing quite like the opening of an Apple Store. See you at the next one? ●

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All the experts agree that installing more memory (RAM) in your Mac is the quickest and easiest way to get an instant speed boost. Programs will load quicker, perform better and your whole Mac will have a new spring in its step.

Most Apple notebooks ship with just 2GB of RAM as standard, so we've teamed up with Kingston Technology to offer a fantastic 4GB memory pack worth £78 as a great gift for new subscribers to *MacFormat*. First, check your Mac is compatible then, once you've got your gift, follow the walkthrough below to install it. You can also watch an installation video at **www.rememberkingston.com**.

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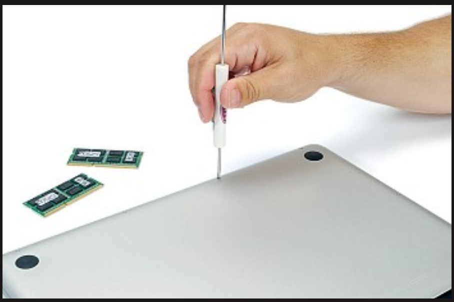
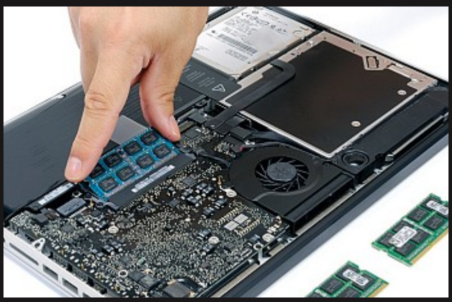
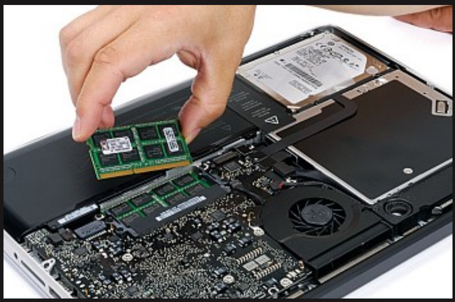
» HOW TO / Install your Kingston Technology RAM in a MacBook Pro







01 Unscrew the back

Make sure your MacBook Pro is turned off and you have earthed yourself to remove any static. Then take a standard crosshead screwdriver and remove the screws holding in your MacBook's back panel. Remember the order in which you remove the screws.

02 Take out the old RAM

Press the memory module release lever to remove the old RAM from your MacBook Pro. Once released, touch only the edges with your thumb and forefinger and give it a pull. You'll need to pull firmly, but you shouldn't need to use a lot of force.

03 Adding the RAM

Slot the new Kingston Technology RAM into the empty memory slots. To fit the RAM, push it in and then slightly downwards to lock it in place. Replace the back of your notebook and start up. If you hear a beep and it won't start, the RAM isn't seated correctly. ●

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It's time to take your Mac knowledge to the next level. **Adam Banks** has 101 of our best-ever Mac tips here for your delectation…

No matter how long you've been using a Mac for there's always more to learn and useful tips to discover. Whether it's realising that you can find a folder much quicker by using *Finder*'s **Go To Folder** option (see tip 27, page 34) or that you can turn *iCal* into a nifty little radio alarm clock that will play your favourite tunes to wake you up (see tip 72, page 39). It's these hidden gems that make owning a Mac such a glorious experience. So, here we've gathered together what we think are the best-ever 101 Mac hints and tips to help you get more from OS X as well as all the applications you use on a daily basis such as *Mail*, *Safari* and, of course, *Finder*.

On each page we've selected a particular tip that's deserving of our Top Tip award, so look out for them. So, without further ado, let's get started with **Smart Folders**. »

Tip 101 Create Smart Folders

In essence, **Smart Folders** are like **Spotlight** searches that you can save and repeat later. They're like folders in the sense that you are able to view their 'contents' like a folder. In *Finder*, create a **Smart Folder** by going to File > New Smart Folder or pressing ⌘+⌥+N. This brings up the familiar **Spotlight** search window. Enter a word or phrase into the box at the top right, and/or click the round **+** button to add more criteria, such as **Kind** or **Last opened** date. Click **Save** and give your **Smart Folder** a name.

Illustration by MagicTorch

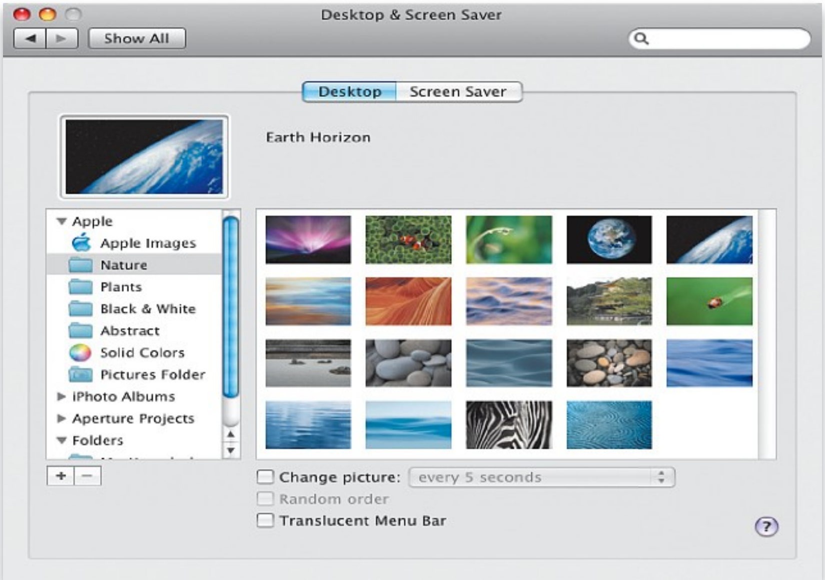
101 BEST-EVER Mac Tips

Customise your Mac

It's your Mac, after all. Here's how to get it your way

01 Change Desktop Background

Right-click the Desktop and choose **Change Desktop Background** to choose from the images supplied by Apple. If you'd rather use an image of your own, your *iPhoto* **Albums** are listed too, or click the **+** sign below to browse for an image in any of the common file formats, including *Photoshop* PSD as well as the more obvious JPEG, PNG, TIFF and GIF. Use the **Change Picture** option to make the background change over time; you get a smooth transition between images. All the images you save into the selected folder will be used. Your choices are previewed live on the Desktop.



☐ Change picture: every 5 seconds

☐ Random order

☐ Translucent Menu Bar

Set the Desktop to regularly update its background automatically using pictures of your choice.

02 Change window background

You can also change the background of a window. In any *Finder* window, press ⌘+1 to view as icons, then ⌘+J to show **View Options**. At the foot of the options panel, **Background** is set to **White** by default. **Switch to Color** and click the swatch that appears, to pick a colour, or choose **Picture** and click **Select…** to browse for an image. By default, this takes you to Library > Desktop Pictures, so you can choose from the same images provided as **Desktop Backgrounds**, but you can navigate to any image file. The image won't scale or tile, so ideally pick one as big as your screen resolution.

03 Tweak screen furniture

Open *System Preferences* (the cogwheel icon in your Dock) and click **Appearance** to change aspects of your Mac's user interface. The first option just lets you choose between blue or grey for buttons, tick boxes and drop-down menus. Change the **Highlight Color**, used when selecting text, if you don't find the default pale blue very clear. You can alter the way scroll bars work, handy if you're accustomed to an earlier version of Mac OS X or Windows. **Use smooth scrolling** means that when you click within a scroll bar to jump up or down, the window will roll to that point rather than switching instantly.

#04 ADJUST EXPOSÉ CONTROLS

Exposé helps you find the right window among all the applications you may have open. It's activated by shortcut keys and/or moving the mouse pointer to corners of the screen – control this in the **Exposé & Spaces** pane of *System Preferences*. *Exposé* was originally assigned to keys F9 to F11, but newer Apple keyboards use F3. Press this to reduce all open windows side by side, then click one or press F3 to cancel. Hold ⌘ with F3 to sweep all windows away, revealing the Desktop. Hold ctrl to see only windows belonging to the current app. Add the ⇧ key to do the same but slower.

05 Label tool bar

If you can't remember what all those toolbar icons actually do, help is at hand. Hover over one to pop up a tip describing it, or right-click the toolbar and choose **Icon & Text** to have each button labelled.

06 Choose Desktop items

Occasionally you will find some options that you might have expected to find in *System Preferences* are actually tucked away in *Finder*'s **Preferences**. These are accessed from the **Finder** menu (every Mac application normally has its **Preferences** on this menu, next to the menu, which always bears the name of the app) or by pressing ⌘+,. In the **General** pane, you can opt to show icons for any connected network servers on the Desktop, or declutter your Desktop by removing the icons that normally represent your hard disk and any CDs, DVDs and iPods (note that these can still be accessed from any *Finder* window).

07 Configure Spaces

For those of you who like to multitask Mac OS X's incredibly handy *Spaces* feature gives you several Desktops to work on. Hold down the ctrl key and press the cursor keys to move between *Spaces*, which is shown on-screen as a neat grid of six boxes. If you wish you can have more or fewer *Spaces*: go the **Exposé & Spaces** pane of *System Preferences* and click the **Spaces** tab, then click to add or remove rows and columns until you're satisfied. Here you can also preset which space an application will launch in. However, note that different windows belonging to the same application can be situated in different *Spaces*. Click a window's title bar and hold the mouse button while pressing ctrl and a cursor key to move it over to another *Spaces* box.

08 Customise Dock shortcuts

Items at the right of the Dock, such as the **Applications** and **Downloads** folders, are represented by the icon of the last item added. For a more descriptive generic icon, right-click the item and switch from **Stack** to **Folder**. When you click one of these items, its contents pop out in a fan if there are only a few files and folders: click one to open it, or drag it to a folder to move it. If there's more to show, you get a grid of icons filling as much of the screen as is needed. You can force either of these arrangements or choose a plain list instead, also on the right-click menu.

09 Repair preference files

A common cause of odd behaviour in Mac OS X is corrupted preference files. Try repairing them. Open *Disk Utility* (in Applications > Utilities), then select your main hard disk in the list on the left. In the **First Aid** tab of the main pane on the right, click **Repair Disk Permissions**. If you're having serious issues with the system, you can also click **Verify Disk** to check your hard disk for problems, which again can often be fixed if found.

10 Customise key shortcuts

Many of the keyboard shortcuts built into Mac OS X are listed in the **Keyboard & Mouse** pane of *System Preferences*, under **Keyboard Shortcuts**. You can also change them here to whatever you'd like.

11 Open Preferences quickly

Hold ⌥ and press any of the function keys that show a system function symbol to open the relevant pane of *System Preferences*. For example, ⌥+F1 or F2 (brightness) opens the **Display** preferences pane.

12 Change alert sound

In the **Sound** pane of *System Preferences*, you can choose which sound is played when the system gives you an alert. Or use any sound file of your choice: full instructions are at **http://tinyurl.com/customalert**.

13 Activate function keys

The F keys on a Mac don't work as function keys by default; they have dedicated purposes, such as adjusting volume. To use them as function keys, hold the fn key. You can reverse this in System Preferences > Keyboard & Mouse > Keyboard.

14 Stop the squeeze

Apple's Mighty Mouse has pads either side that, when squeezed, activate Button 4, which triggers *Exposé*. Many users find they do this by accident. Turn it off in System Preferences > Keyboard & Mouse > Mouse.

15 Customise the Dock

By default, the Dock pops up from the foot of the screen when you move the mouse there. Change its size, position and behaviour in System Preferences > Dock. **Magnification** refers to the way icons get bigger as you mouse over them.

#16 SHOW THUMBNAIL ICONS

Every file and folder has its own icon in *Finder*. For most files it's usually a generic icon indicating its file type, but for pictures it can be a more useful thumbnail image. You can turn this on or off by pressing ⌘+J in a *Finder* window, and this will show its **View Options**. These vary for each of the four views: **Icons**, **List**, **Column** or **Cover Flow**; switch between them by holding ⌘ and pressing the number keys 1-4 (you can still do this with the options pane open). For each view, tick **Show icon** preview. To apply this to all windows, click **Use as Defaults**.

17 Custom windows

To change what appears in the Sidebar at the left of every **Finder** window - for example, to remove things you don't use - choose *Preferences* from the **Finder** menu and click the **Sidebar** tab.

18 Add to Dock

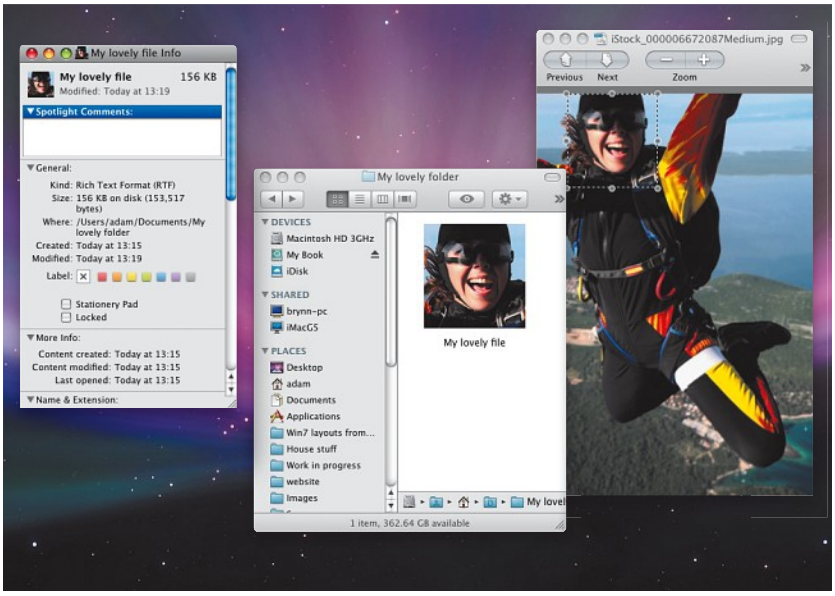
You can add anything to your Dock. Drag program icons onto the left-hand end, or if a program is already running, right-click it in the Dock and choose **Keep in Dock**. Drag commonly used files or folders onto the right-hand end.

19 Customise window toolbar

The toolbar at the top of each **Finder** window shows a few handy options, but can include many more. Right-click it and choose **Customize Toolbar** to add buttons. ⌘+drag to remove them.

20 Create custom icons

To create your own icon for a file or folder, open any image in the *Preview* app. Use the **Selection** tool to draw around the area you want, then press ⌘+C to copy it. Now go to *Finder*, select the file or folder you want to customise, and press ⌘+I (**Get Info**). Click the small icon in the top-left corner, so that it shows a blue outline, then press ⌘+V to paste your copied selection. The only catch is that the icon lacks a mask, so you won't be able to click the thumbnail to select the item, you have to click on its name instead.



My lovely file Info

My lovely file 156 KB
Modified: Today at 13:19

Kind: Rich Text Format (RTF)
Size: 156 KB on disk (153,517 bytes)
Where: /Users/adam/Documents/My lovely folder
Created: Today at 13:15
Modified: Today at 13:19
Label: ☒
☐ Stationery Pad
☐ Locked

Content created: Today at 13:15
Content modified: Today at 13:15
Last opened: Today at 13:15

1 item, 362.64 GB available

Create your own icons for your files and folders using the Preview application.

Tame the Finder

Finder is where you wrangle files and folders. Make it work for you

21 Drag and drop

You can drag and drop almost anything between applications and *Finder*, including text, pictures and more. Often you'll need to go to one place to get an item, then move to another location or application to drop it. There are many ways to get to where you want while still holding the mouse button to keep hold of your dragged item. For example, move to one of the screen corners that activates *Exposé* (see tip 4) to reveal the Desktop, so you can drop the item there, or pick an application window to drop it into. Or press ⌘+⇥ to switch between applications.

22 Force quit

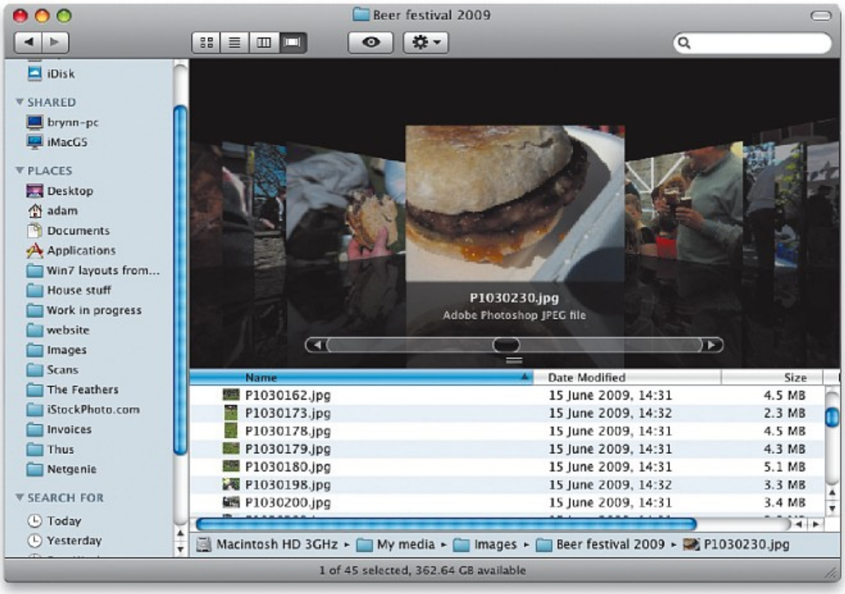
One problem with the Dock is that it's easy to click a program by mistake and start it launching. To cancel it, hold ⌥ while right-clicking its icon and choose **Force Quit**. This also works when a program has crashed.

23 Cover Flow folders

Mac OS X Leopard can display files and folders using the **Cover Flow** effect as first seen in *iTunes*: to do this just press ⌘+4 in any **Finder** window. Riffle through a folder using the Mighty Mouse wheel, or if you prefer to use keys, press the ▶ or ▼ key to bring up the next item, ◀ or ▲ to see the previous one, ⌥+▼ for the last item or ⌥+▲ for the first. For a power-user setup, grab below the slider to adjust the **Cover Flow** area to about half the depth of the window. When you select a folder, it's highlighted below; press ⌘+▶ to reveal its contents, or ⌘+▼ to move inside this folder.

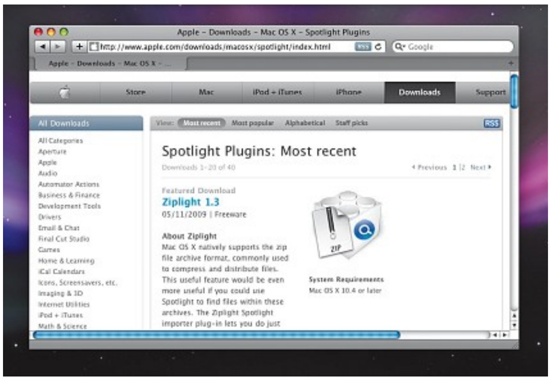
24 Use Spotlight

The **Spotlight** search tool is an important feature of Mac OS X. Click on the magnifying glass located at the top-right of the screen for a quick search. You can set a key shortcut for this in the **Spotlight** pane of *System Preferences*; the default is ⌘+[Spacebar]. When results appear, press ↩ to open the first one (**Top Hit**) immediately, or move down the list with the cursor keys to select another. Press ↩ to open it or ⌘+↩ to show its location in a **Finder** window. Select **Show All** to see a full listing of the all the results.


Beer festival 2009
iDisk
SHARED
brynn-pc
iMacG5
PLACES
Desktop
adam
Documents
Applications
Win7 layouts from...
House stuff
Work in progress
website
Images
Scans
The Feathers
iStockPhoto.com
Invoices
Thus
Netgenie
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
P1030230.jpg
Adobe Photoshop JPEG file
Macintosh HD 3GHz ▸ My media ▸ Images ▸ Beer festival 2009 ▸ P1030230.jpg
1 of 45 selected, 362.64 GB available

Name	Date Modified	Size
P1030162.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:31	4.5 MB
P1030173.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:32	2.3 MB
P1030178.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:31	4.5 MB
P1030179.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:31	4.3 MB
P1030180.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:31	5.1 MB
P1030198.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:32	3.3 MB
P1030200.jpg	15 June 2009, 14:31	3.4 MB

You can now use Cover Flow to go through your own images.


Apple - Downloads - Mac OS X - Spotlight Plugins
http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/spotlight/index.html
Google
Store
Mac
iPod + iTunes
iPhone
Downloads
Support
All Downloads
All Categories
Aperture
Apple
Audio
Automator Actions
Business & Finance
Development Tools
Drivers
Email & Chat
Final Cut Studio
Games
Home & Learning
iCal Calendars
Icons, Screensavers, etc.
Imaging & 3D
Internet Utilities
iPod + iTunes
Math & Science
View: Most recent Most popular Alphabetical Staff picks
RSS
Previous 1 2 Next
ZIP

Spotlight Plugins: Most recent

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Featured Download

Ziplight 1.3

05/11/2009 | Freeware

About Ziplight

Mac OS X natively supports the zip file archive format, commonly used to compress and distribute files. This useful feature would be even more useful if you could use Spotlight to find files within these archives. The Ziplight Spotlight importer plug-in lets you do just

System Requirements

Mac OS X 10.4 or later

There are many free third-party plug-ins for Spotlight.

25 Extend Spotlight

The great thing about **Spotlight** is that it finds exactly what you're looking for within the contents of your files, not just in their names. To do this, it has to be able to read the information in whatever type of file it's looking at, and inevitably it can't do this for every type of file created by every application. Fortunately, there are free third-party plug-ins for many more. Find them listed at: **www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/spotlight**. For example, *Ziplight* lets you search zip archives, and *Google Importer* adds Google website results to your **Spotlight** searches.

26 Fix blind spots

Spotlight is extremely useful, but can be slightly temperamental. If it fails to index a particular folder, so that its contents don't show up in searches, you can fix this using in *Terminal*, accessible from Applications > Utilities. At the *Terminal* command line, type **mdimport** followed by a space, then drag a file or folder from *Finder* onto the *Terminal* window to add its path, and press ↩. (In versions of Mac OS X before 10.5 Leopard, use **mdimport -f** instead.) If this is all too techie for you, try adding the folder to **Spotlight**'s **Privacy** list (see tip 35), then removing it.

27 Go to folder

If you want to open up a particular folder and know exactly where it is located – for example, **Utilities** inside **Applications** inside **Macintosh HD** – you may find it a lot quicker to type out its path than to click through a series of folders. In *Finder*, press ⌘+⇧+G (or, alternatively, choose **Go to Folder...** from the **Go** menu), then type a slash to start from your Macintosh HD followed by the folder(s) you want to go into: for example, **/Applications/Utilities**. To see the contents of your Macintosh HD, enter a slash by itself.

28 Folder shortcuts

The Sidebar at the left of **Finder** windows is handy: drag any folder into this to make it instantly accessible. You can add files too. However, with a lot of items it gets cumbersome. An alternative is to make a new folder somewhere and fill it with aliases of regularly used items. (⌘+L makes an alias.) Drag this folder onto the right-hand end of your Dock. You can now click this to show its contents, then click an item to open it, or drag it into the **Open** dialog box in any application to select it without wading through folders.

29 Application associations

When you double-click a file, it opens in the app it's associated with, normally the one that created it. To open it in a different app, drag the file onto a program icon in the Dock icon (or in **Applications**). The icon will dim if the file is compatible. Alternatively, right-click the file and choose **Open With…** to select from a list of possible apps. To make a file open with a particular app every time, press ⌘+I to show its **Info**, then use the drop-down menu under **Open With…** to choose an app. Click **Change All** to make all files of this kind open with this app.

30 Spring-loaded folders

When you need to drag an item into a particular folder, you don't have to go to the trouble of opening that folder first. Instead, drag the item over the icon for the hard disk, device or folder that contains the location you're looking for, and wait for it to 'spring' open, revealing its contents in a window. Continue until you get to where you want. If you go into the wrong folder, just drag away from it to pop out again. To make an icon spring open immediately, press [Spacebar]. You can adjust the delay in Finder > Preferences > General.

31 Sort files

To change how items are sorted in a *Finder* window, click any of the column titles (**Name**, **Date Modified**, **Size** or **Kind**) to order them by that criterion; click it again to reverse the order from top to bottom.

32 Arrange icons

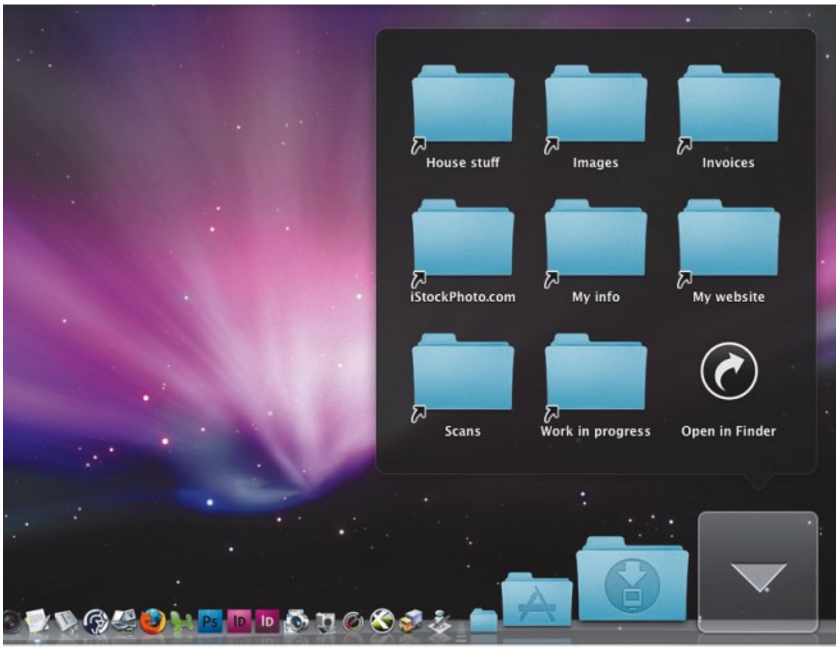
In icon view, a **Finder** window may be a bit of a jumble. Press ⌘+ctrl+1 to arrange the icons neatly by name. To sort in other ways, use numbers 2 to 6, or go to **Arrange By** on the **View** menu.

33 Finder views

In any **Finder** window, items are shown either as icons, a list, in columns (to fit hundreds of files into one window) or with **Cover Flow**. Switch between these by pressing ⌘+1, 2, 3 or 4.

34 Select multiple items

In the **List** or **Column** view, you can select a whole run of files or folders by clicking on the first one and then ⇧-clicking on the last. In **Icon** view, you can drag a box around several icons to select them, ⌘-click to select multiple individual items, or, alternatively, use ⌘+A to select all.



The Folder shortcuts feature is incredibly handy especially for regularly used items.

35 Refine Spotlight

You can tell **Spotlight** to ignore a location by going to the **Spotlight** pane in *System Preferences*, click **Privacy**, and click the **+** sign. Then it won't waste its time indexing a drive that you only use for backups.

37 Force new windows

When you double-click a folder in a **Finder** window, the same window displays its contents. Hold ⌘ to open a new window instead. To reverse this, go to Finder > Preferences > General and tick **Always open folders** in a new window.

38 Choose a window

Click and hold a program icon in the Dock to pop up a list of active windows in that application, then select a window to go to it. This lets you bring up one window while keeping another app visible beside it.

39 Search again

At the foot of the Sidebar, at the left of any **Finder** window, you can click to see the results of all the **Spotlight** searches you performed earlier today, yesterday or in the past week.

40 Launch via Spotlight

To run a program that isn't in your Dock, don't waste time navigating to the **Applications** folder. Just start typing the app's name into **Spotlight**. It'll usually appear as the **Top Hit**; press ↩ to launch it. »

36 OPEN MULTIPLE FILES

If, for any reason, you need to work on a number of files, many applications will enable you to open them all at once rather than having to load them one by one. Select multiple files in *Finder* (see tip 34), then double-click any one of them, or drag them onto a program icon, to open them all. Alternatively, you can launch an application, go to File > Open, then use the ⇧ and ⌘ keys (see tip 34, again) to select multiple files within the **Open** dialog box before clicking **Open** to load them all up.

Work smarter

Quick tips to help you get more done in less time!

41 Multiple print

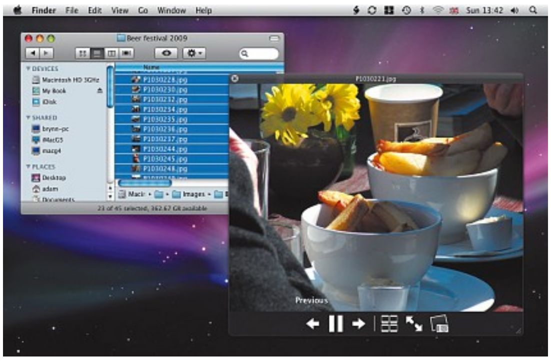
If you have a number of files of the same kind that you need to print, there's a super-quick method. First, go to *System Preferences* and click **Print & Fax**. Make sure the printer you want to use is listed on the left, with a green idle light to show it's ready. Then select it as the **Default Printer** on the right, with **Default Paper** set to the correct size. In *Finder*, select several files belonging to the same application, such as *TextEdit* or Microsoft *Word*, and go to File > Print. The files open automatically in that app, and its **Print** function (with default settings) is used to output them.

42 Save as PDF

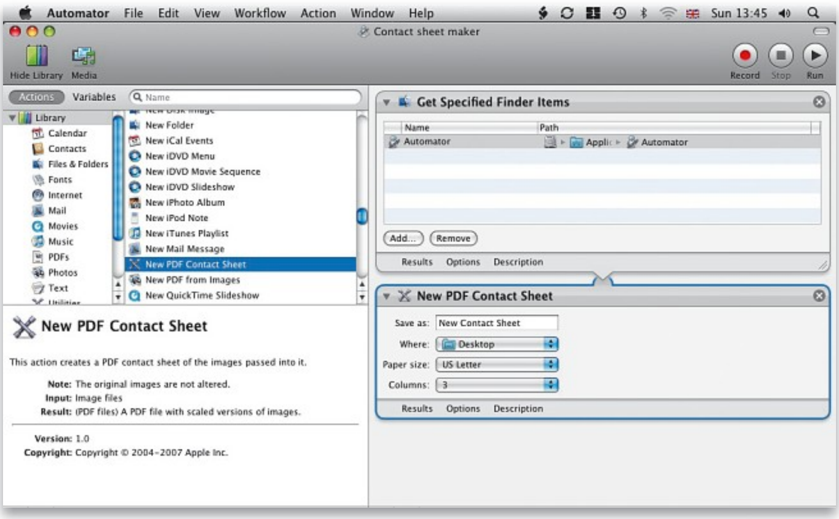
Mac OS X has the built-in ability to create PDF files – a great way to save a finished document that looks exactly as you intended when other users receive it. All they need to open it is the free Adobe *Reader* application, already installed on most Macs and PCs. To create a PDF from any app, go to File > Print (or press ⌘+P), then click the PDF drop-down menu in the bottom left-hand corner. Choose **Save as PDF** to create a file, or **Mail as PDF** to email it immediately. You can also use this function to preview how a document will look when printed: choose **Open PDF** in *Preview*.

43 Quick Look

A surprisingly large number of users haven't cottoned on to Leopard's **Quick Look** feature, which is a massive timesaver when you need to check the content of a number of files, or view a folder full of pictures without faffing around with *iPhoto*. Just select any file in the *Finder* and press ⌘+Y to preview its content in a neat pop-up window. This doesn't work with every file type, but most text and graphics files are supported. It also works with multiple items selected: use the ◄ and ► keys to move between them. Alternatively, press ⌘+⌥+Y to view them in a slideshow.


Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Sun 13:42
Beer festival 2009
DEVICES
SHARED
PLACES
P1030223.jpg
Previous

Quick Look is perfect for checking contents of files.


Automator File Edit View Workflow Action Window Help
Sun 13:45
Contact sheet maker
Hide Library
Media
Record
Stop
Run
Actions
Variables
Library
Calendar
Contacts
Files & Folders
Fonts
Internet
Mail
Movies
Music
PDFs
Photos
Text
New Folder
New iCal Events
New iDVD Menu
New iDVD Movie Sequence
New iDVD Slideshow
New iPhoto Album
New iPod Note
New iTunes Playlist
New Mail Message
New PDF Contact Sheet
New PDF from Images
New QuickTime Slideshow
Get Specified Finder Items
Name
Path
Automator
Add...
Remove
Results
Options
Description

New PDF Contact Sheet

This action creates a PDF contact sheet of the images passed into it.

Note: The original images are not altered.
Input: Image files
Result: (PDF files) A PDF file with scaled versions of images.

Version: 1.0
Copyright: Copyright © 2004–2007 Apple Inc.

New PDF Contact Sheet

Save as: New Contact Sheet
Where: Desktop
Paper size: US Letter
Columns: 3

Automator will handily create contact sheets of your images, ready for you to print off.

44 Screen Capture

When you want a really quick and simple way to show someone else whatever you're looking at on-screen, the answer is a screen grab. Also known as a screen capture or screenshot, this is basically just an image of your screen, or part of it, exactly as it looks to you at that moment. To capture the whole screen, press ⌘+⇧+3, or press ⌘+⇧+4 to draw around an area. Either way, the result will be stored as **Picture 1** on your Desktop, with the number going up each time. Alternatively, add the ctrl key to copy the grab to the clipboard, so you can paste it straight into an email.

45 Automator

Automator enables you to program almost any task without being a programmer. For example, launch it (from **Applications**) and choose Photos & Images > Get content from > my Mac. Use image files selected in *Finder* now. Click **Choose**. Scroll down the middle pane to **New PDF Contact Sheet**, and drag this into the right pane, below the existing box. Choose somewhere to save a PDF. Go to File > Save As, set **File Format** to **Application**, name your app and save it. In *Finder*, select image files and drag them onto your app's icon. A contact sheet of them in PDF format is created in the location you specify.

46 Mac OS X Services

Every application menu – the one next to the menu that shows the name of the active program - gives access to the **Services** submenu. *Services* work with *Cocoa* apps, including all Apple software and many others but not Microsoft apps. Look here for a variety of handy functions, including looking up words in Mac OS X's built-in dictionary and importing screenshots (only for programs that can handle images). Third-party add-ons are also available. Some of the most useful, including automatic text formatting and calculations, can be downloaded free of charge from **http://tinyurl.com/devonservices**.

47 Say it loud

In any *Cocoa* application, select some text, right-click and choose Speech > Start Speaking. This feature is extremely helpful to users with sight problems. If you wish, you can change the voice in System Preferences > System > Speech > System Voice.

48 Text clippings

Having selected some text in any app, click on it (if the mouse pointer still shows a text cursor instead of an arrow, pause for a moment) then drag it to the Desktop or into any folder to save it as a clipping. This can later be dragged into any text editor. If it appears instead as a picture clipping, as it may when dragged from *Word*, drag it first onto the *TextEdit* program icon, then press ⌘+A and drag it out again. Annoyingly, clippings can't be viewed using *QuickView*. For a visible record, drag your clipping onto the *Stickies* program icon. *Stickies* is installed by default in the Applications folder.

49 Activity Monitor

Is your Mac running particularly slowly? If it is, it could be because something is hogging your memory or processor. Open *Activity Monitor* (in Applications > Utilities) and look for processes using a significant percentage of CPU or a lot of Real Memory. If you're not using the application responsible (listed under Process Name), close some or all of its windows, or quit it. For example, you may find your web browser is using a lot of CPU time unnecessarily because you've left dozens of windows open. If the system is being eaten by some mystery process that does not appear to be linked to an application, try restarting your Mac.

50 Activate Firewall

In Mac OS X Leopard 10.5.1 or later, the built-in firewall is turned off by default, removing protection against incoming connections. That's not as risky as it sounds, because a more comprehensive firewall runs constantly in the background. For extra protection, open *System Preferences*, click the Security icon, click the Firewall tab, and change the setting from Allow all incoming connections to Set access for specific services and applications. When a non-Apple program tries to use an incoming internet connection, you'll be asked whether you want to allow it; you only need do this once for each app. Learn more at http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1810.

51 Close all

You probably already know that you can press ⌘+W to close a window. But did you know you can press ⌘+⌥+W to close every window in the current application or in *Finder*? Alternatively, ⌥+click any window's Close button (the red one at the top left).

52 Minimise all

Closing windows is fine as long as you won't want them back immediately. If you want to have the window open but out of the way you can minimise it by pressing ⌘+M, or to get many, minimise all windows with ⌘+⌥+M. You'll find your minimised windows at the right of the Dock.

53 Eject delay

In Mac OS X 10.4.9 and higher, the ⏏ key on the keyboard has a slight delay: you have to hold it down to pop a disc out. Now that you know this, you can stop hitting it repeatedly while looking confused!

#54 MORE AUTOMATOR

Automator Workflows comprise a series of **Actions** that you find in the middle pane and arrange in order in the right pane. As long as there are **Actions** for the things you want to do, you should be able to see how to put them together. Find more **Actions** at **www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/automator**, and even more **Actions** and **Workflows** by searching the web for 'automator mac os x'. For extra help go to *Automator*'s **Help** menu or visit **www.automatorworld.com**.

55 Launch Front Row

To launch *Front Row*, Mac OS X's media centre for music, photos and movies, simply press ⌘+esc. Navigate menus with the ▲ and ▼ keys, press [Spacebar] to select or esc to go back, and move through photos or songs with ◄ and ► keys.

56 Timed screen grab

Another way to take a screen grab (see tip 44) is to launch *Preview* and go to File > Grab. Use the Timed Screen option to capture from apps that don't let you activate a screen grab while using them.

57 Instant Google

In *Cocoa* applications (all Apple apps and many others), select any word or phrase, right-click it and choose Search in Google to do exactly that. This always opens *Safari*, not your default web browser, to show the results.

58 Edit code

Mac OS X's built-in *TextEdit* program is handy both as a word processor and as a basic editor for things like HTML and CSS code. To open a code file for editing, tick Ignore rich text commands in the Open dialog box.

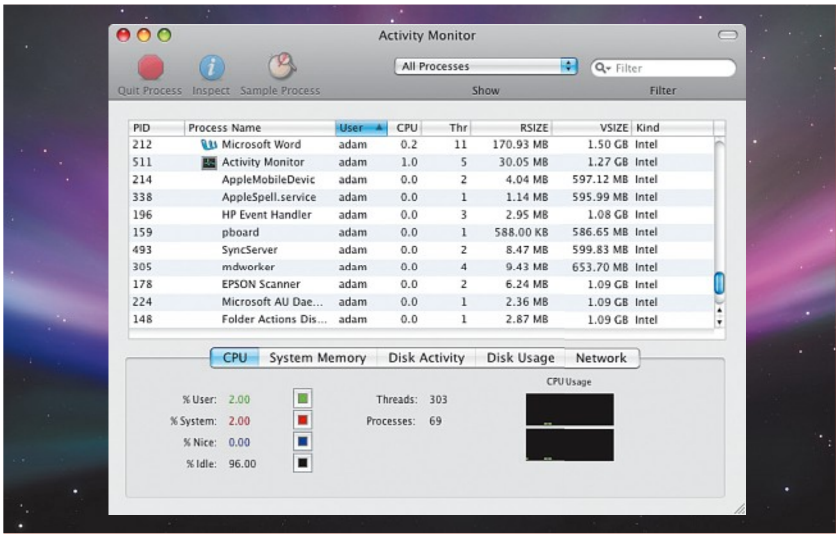
59 Non-linear selections

In *TextEdit* or Microsoft *Word*, you can select any rectangular area, as opposed to continuous text, by holding ⌥ while you drag. Great for copying or restyling one column in a tabbed table.

60 Key shortcuts revealed

Ever thought, 'I wonder if there's a Mac OS X keyboard shortcut to…?' If there is, you'll probably find it listed in Apple's guide to shortcuts at http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1343.

»



PID	Process Name	User	CPU	Thr	RSIZE	VSIZE	Kind
212	Microsoft Word	adam	0.2	11	170.93 MB	1.50 GB	Intel
511	Activity Monitor	adam	1.0	5	30.05 MB	1.27 GB	Intel
214	AppleMobileDevic	adam	0.0	2	4.04 MB	597.12 MB	Intel
338	AppleSpell.service	adam	0.0	1	1.14 MB	595.99 MB	Intel
196	HP Event Handler	adam	0.0	3	2.95 MB	1.08 GB	Intel
159	pboard	adam	0.0	1	588.00 KB	586.65 MB	Intel
493	SyncServer	adam	0.0	2	8.47 MB	599.83 MB	Intel
305	mdworker	adam	0.0	4	9.43 MB	653.70 MB	Intel
178	EPSON Scanner	adam	0.0	2	6.24 MB	1.09 GB	Intel
224	Microsoft AU Dae…	adam	0.0	1	2.36 MB	1.09 GB	Intel
148	Folder Actions Dis…	adam	0.0	1	2.87 MB	1.09 GB	Intel

% User: 2.00 🟩
% System: 2.00 🟥
% Nice: 0.00 🟦
% Idle: 96.00 ■
Threads: 303
Processes: 69

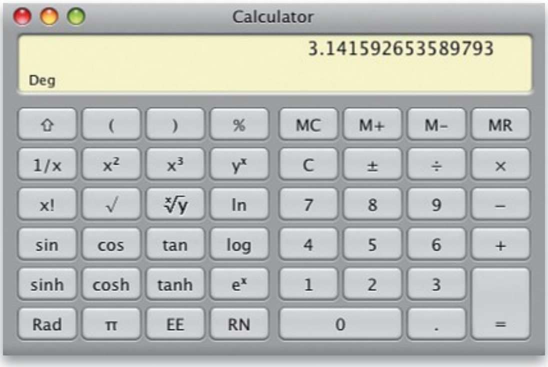
The Activity Monitor will give you an instant lowdown of what's hogging your memory.

Get organised

From calculators to calendars, your Mac will keep you efficient

61 Calculator choices

You should never have to reach for a desk calculator while using your Mac. *Dashboard* has a simple calculator that you can access at any time along with the rest of your widgets. For more advanced sums, find *Calculator* in the **Applications** folder; from the **View** menu, switch it to **Scientific** or **Programmer** mode (the latter is a calculator for programmers, not a programmable calculator). Or try using **Spotlight** as a quick calculator. Enter an equation, such as 48000/52 (forty-eight thousand divided by fifty-two) or 2*pi+5 (two times pi plus factorial 5) and the answer appears below. It won't do powers or roots, though.


Calculator
3.141592653589793
Deg
( ) % MC M+ M− MR
1/x x² x³ yˣ C ± ÷ ×
x! √ ∛y ln 7 8 9 −
sin cos tan log 4 5 6 +
sinh cosh tanh eˣ 1 2 3
Rad π EE RN 0 . =

Use Calculator from your Apps folder for more complex sums.

62 File labels

In *Finder*, you can give any file or folder a coloured label, either via the right-click menu or from the **File** menu. To give these labels names, go to Finder > Preferences > Labels. To make your labels smarter, create **Smart Folders**. Press ⌘+⇧+F, change **Name** to **Other…** and choose **File label**. Click a label, then click **Save**, name your search to match your label and tick **Add to Sidebar**. Appearing at the foot of the Sidebar in any **Finder** window, this item will show all files with that label, anywhere on your Mac, with one click.

63 Folder Actions

With **Folder Actions**, dropping a file into a folder sets off an automatic process. For example, all images could be converted to JPEG. Turn on **Folder Actions** by right-clicking any folder and selecting **Enable Folder Actions**. Now make a new folder (⌘+⇧+N), right-click it and choose **Configure Folder Actions**. Click the + sign and select your folder. When asked to choose a script, pick **Image – Duplicate as JPEG.scpt** and click **Attach**. That's it: drop in a file to see. You can click **Edit Script** to tweak the script; to go further you'll need to learn some AppleScript.

64 Find large files

When you need to clear space on your hard disk, it's quicker to delete a few large files than hundreds of small ones. In *Finder*, press ⌘+⇧+F, change **Name** to **Other…** and pick **Size**, change **equals** to **is greater than**, and try 100 MB. Click **Kind** to sort the results, then scroll through to spot unwanted behemoths. Another option is to search for file types that are commonly unwanted, such as the disk images used to install applications (.dmg). Change **Name** to **Kind**, select **Other**, then drag any file of the type you want to look for onto the outlined box to find others.

65 Sort your music

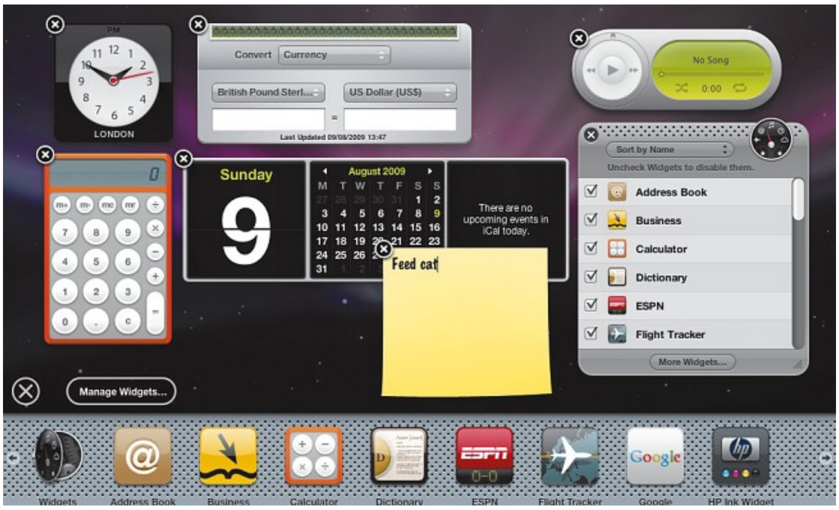
iTunes has smart folders too. If you have a mix of purchased *iTunes* tracks, which until recently were copy-protected, and other music, it's hard to know which are which. Press ⌘+⌥+N for a new **Smart Playlist** and set it to **Kind** and **Does not contain** and **Protected**.

66 Set up Mail

You can use Apple's *Mail* application with almost any email account. Both POP and IMAP are supported (the former is more common with basic email services, the latter makes it easier to access your mail from multiple devices). Instructions for Google Mail (Gmail) are at **http://tinyurl.com/mailgmail**, alternatively if you want to use your Google Mail as IMAP rather than POP, try **http://tinyurl.com/mailgmailimap**. If you have a MobileMe account but use other addresses as well, it's simplest to forward them on to it. In Google Mail, for example, go to Settings > Forwarding and POP/IMAP, and enter your me.com address under **Forward a copy of incoming mail to**.

67 Dashboard widgets

Mac OS X's *Dashboard* should be the first place to look for your handy everyday tools. By default, it's activated by clicking the Mighty Mouse wheel or pressing F4; it also has an icon in the Dock. The supplied *Dashboard* widgets cover a variety of tasks, from showing the weather to converting measurements and currencies. Click the + at the bottom left to check out the widgets not visible by default. (This also shows a **Close** box on each visible widget.) The first widget, called **Widgets**, shows a list of all your widgets as well as links to thousands more online, all free.


LONDON
Convert Currency
British Pound Sterl...
US Dollar (US$)
Last Updated 09/08/2009 13:47
No Song
0:00
Sunday
9
August 2009
There are no upcoming events in iCal today.
Feed cat
Sort by Name
Uncheck Widgets to disable them.
Address Book
Business
Calculator
Dictionary
ESPN
Flight Tracker
More Widgets...
Manage Widgets...
Widgets
Address Book
Business
Calculator
Dictionary
ESPN
Flight Tracker
Google
HP Ink Widget

Widgets are the ideal way of getting to your everyday tools.

68 Smart Mailboxes

Manage your messages in *Mail* using Smart Mailboxes. Rather than dragging files into these, you define which files will appear in them based on search criteria. Go to Mailbox > New Smart Mailbox and give your mailbox a name. Use the drop-down menus below to filter the messages you want to include: for example, to show all messages older than a week that you haven't yet replied to, set Contains messages that match all of the following conditions: Date received and is not in the last and 7 Days and Message was not Replied to.

69 Monitor Dashboard

Does *Dashboard* waste system resources? It doesn't use the processor (CPU) except when open, but a lot of widgets could take up a significant amount of memory (RAM). In Activity Monitor (see tip 49), check Dashboard Client processes.

70 Multiple calendars

iCal can show multiple calendars for home, work and so on, plus other people's online calendars that you subscribe to via Calendar > Subscribe. Make a new calendar using Edit > New Calendar. Tick the calendars of whose events you want to see.

71 Calendar syncing

You can sync calendars with an iPhone or iPod via *iTunes* whenever you connect the iPod to your Mac. To sync on the move, you must have a MobileMe account and tick Synchronize my calendars in the General pane of *iCal*'s Preferences.

72 Musical alarms

Turn *iCal* into a radio alarm clock by setting it to play your favourite music track as a reminder. When editing an event, set Alarm to Open file, switch it from iCal to Other… and select a file from your Music folder.

73 Instant reminder

Mail recognises any reference to a date in an email and highlights it when you pass the mouse over it. Click the drop-down menu (triangle button) to add an *iCal* event on this date, linked to the message.

74 Photos in Mail

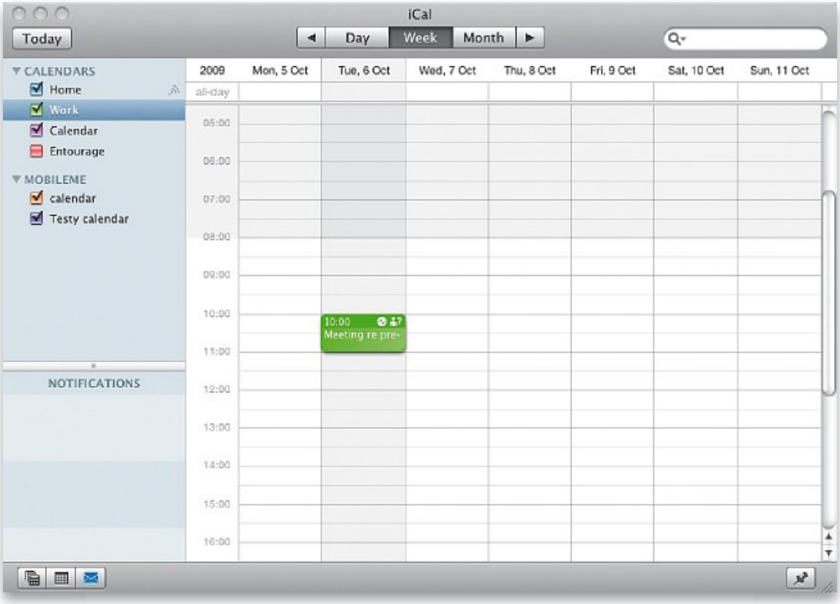
To email photos, you don't have to juggle *iPhoto* and *Mail*. In *Mail*, go to Windows > Photo Browser. This opens a box listing all your albums in *iPhoto*, plus any photos taken using the *Photo Booth* webcam utility.

75 Hide bad shots

Got a lot of pictures in *iPhoto*? Weed out the duff ones. Glance through, click on any that look poor and hit ⌘+L (we like to think this stands for 'loser'). They'll all stay hidden until you press ⌘+⇧+H.

76 Sync Notes

The iPhone's *Notes* sync via *iTunes* to the *Notes* function in the *Mail* app if you tick this option in the Info tab when you select your iPhone in *iTunes*. They can't be synced wirelessly via MobileMe.



Use the iCal application to help you organise your time as well as your work schedule.

77 Use iCal for lists

Dashboard's Stickies widget is handy for jotting things down, but if you're using it as a to-do list, kick the habit: it's much more effective to manage your tasks in *iCal*, which can remind you when they're due.

79 Plan with iCal

In *iCal*, you've got a comprehensive time manager. To add an appointment, click a date in the mini-calendar at the bottom left, then select Day or Week view in the main pane and double-click a time slot. Type a title and press ⏎; to enter details, double-click the event box or press ⌘+E. Set an alarm if required. To show who's involved, click Add Attendees and start typing names, or press ⌘+⌥+A to open the Address Panel and drag names across. To send invitations, click Send at the bottom right: full details are instantly emailed to them all, with an *iCal* attachment that they can open in *iCal* or other calendar software.

80 To Do items

Mail also handles to-do items. Create one by ticking the To Do icon in the toolbar. Also, when you need to do something as detailed in an email, *Mail* lets you preserve that link. Within the message you're reading, click and drag to select the text that describes what you need reminding about, such as 'We really need that presentation by the 18th'. Right-click the highlighted text and choose New To Do. A copy of the text appears, so you can edit it; click the arrow on the left to add a due date.

»

#78 MAIL RULES

Since they don't move messages, **Smart Mailboxes** won't declutter your inbox. Sort your mail too using **Mail Rules**. Use Mailbox > New Mailbox to make a mailbox for each category you want. (Set **Location** to **MobileMe** if you also want to see this as a folder there.) Your mailboxes appear in the left pane. Now go to Mail > Preferences and pick **Rules**. Click **Add Rule**, give your rule a name, and set its criteria: for example, to file all messages from the *Guardian* in your **Guardian** mailbox, set **If any** of the following conditions are met: **From** and **Contains** and **Guardian** – Perform the following actions: **Move Message** to mailbox: **Guardian**.

Be an internet warrior

It's you against the world wide web – and you're going to win. Grrr!

81 Use Safari 4

If you haven't yet upgraded to *Safari 4*, now's the time. (Get the free upgrade via *Software Update* – see tip 96.) Apart from being faster, it has great new features. Press ⌘+⇧+1 for **Top Sites**, a visual display of your most-visited web pages; click **Edit** to drag sites around, pin them into place (so they don't change with your browsing habits) or remove them. A star shows which sites have changed since you visited. Go to History > Show All History to view your history and bookmarks with **Cover Flow**, which lets you flip through sites to find the one you want at a glance.

82 Safari shortcuts

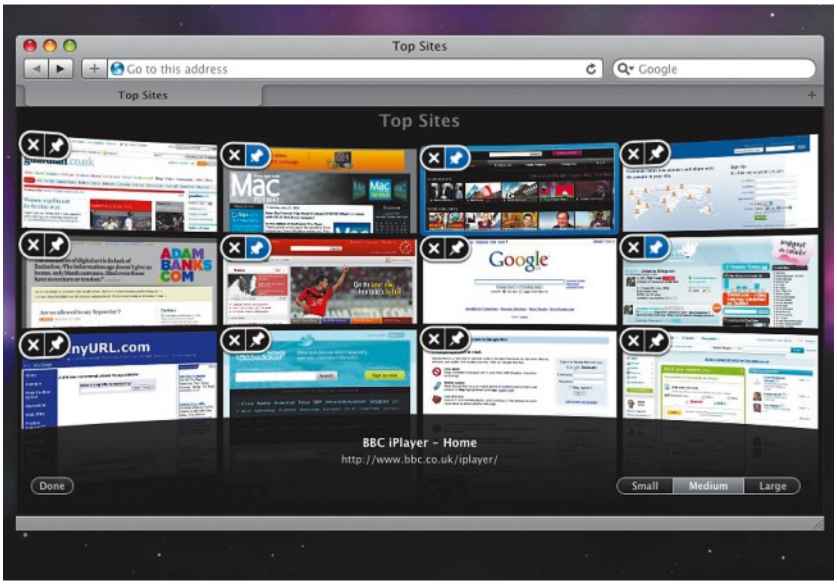
Get to know *Safari*'s key shortcuts to speed up your web browsing. As in other applications, hold ⌘ and press the [or] keys (to the left of ↩ on an Apple keyboard) to go ◄ or ►. Add ⇧ to switch between tabs. You can also use ⌘+⇧ with ◄ or ► to switch tabs, but, be warned, this fails when a text entry box is active. To cycle between the open windows, hold ⌘ and press ` (next to the left ⇧ key on an Apple keyboard); add ⇧ to cycle the opposite way. You'll find that his also works in other applications.

83 Get MobileMe

MobileMe (me.com) is Apple's 'cloud' service, which gives you a me.com email address for which messages are stored on a central server and synced between your Mac(s), iPhone or iPod touch, and even any Windows PCs. Contacts, calendars and to-do lists are also synced, and you get an online iDisk with up to 20GB of free storage. All in all, it's definitely worth the £59 a year that you have to pay for it. However, even if you don't have MobileMe, you can do many of the same things with Google's free mail and calendar tools, but not quite as simply. Find out more by visiting **tinyurl.com/googleiphone1** and **tinyurl.com/googleiphone2**.

#84 PUSH SYNCINGS

MobileMe can sync everything between Macs, iPhones and iPod touches. Set what's synced in the MobileMe pane of *System Preferences*. Along with received emails, changes made on your Mac are 'pushed' to your iPhone (as long as you have cell or WiFi reception): for example, when you start typing a **To Do** item in *Mail*, the **Mail Activity** pane at the bottom left springs to life, and the Apple *Mail* **To Do** folder in your iPhone's Mail app updates instantly. If this doesn't happen, go to your iPhone's **Settings**, choose Mail, Contacts, Calendars > Fetch New Data, and check **Push** is turned on.



Top sites in Safari 4 now gives you a visual display of your most-visited pages for easy reference.

85 History preference

MacFormat Top Tip

In Safari > Preferences > General, choose how long web pages are kept in your history. Set **Remove history items** to **Manually** to keep them forever, but keep an eye on the history items' list getting out of control.

86 What a To Do

MobileMe has a few slightly awkward aspects. **To Do** items are a case in point. On your iPhone, **To Do** items can be found only in *Mail*, not in *Calendar*, and you'll only see those that you created in the *Mail* application on your Mac and assigned to MobileMe rather than On My Mac (choose by selecting one of these in the left pane before creating a **To Do**). When you log in to MobileMe (**me.com**) in a web browser, however, it's the opposite. Only *Calendar* shows **To Dos**, and only those created in *iCal* and assigned to **On My Mac**. To create a reminder visible everywhere, make it an event in a synced calendar.

87 Retrieve recent sites

If you were working in *Safari* but had to quit, and want to find all the same pages you were looking at, go to History > Reopen All Windows From Last Session. For the clumsy, there's also **Reopen Last Closed Window**.

88 History Search

In *Safari 4*, when you know you saw something on a site but forget where, type it into the **History Search** field in **Top Sites**. Like **Spotlight** in *Finder*, this looks right through each page you've visited to find the content.

89 Export images

Drag images from *Safari* into *TextEdit*, or other document-editing apps. Or drag them into *Mail* (or Microsoft *Entourage*) to attach it to a new email.

90 Access FTP servers

If you need to access an FTP server, perhaps to exchange large files with other users or to upload to a web server, you can do this from *Finder*. Press ⌘+K and enter the URL, such as **ftp://ftp.myservername.com/myfolder**. A box will then appear asking for a username and password, which you should have been given. If the server accepts anonymous (guest) logins, you're generally expected to enter **ftp** or **anonymous** for the username and your email address for the password. Once you're in, the server's contents will appear in a window like any folder, and you can drag items in and out or access it from **Open** and **Save** dialog boxes.

91 Link options

When you're clicking on a link in *Safari*, hold down ⌘ to make it open in a new tab or window. You can even choose in Safari > Preferences > Tabs, whether the new tab or window appears in front of or behind the current one.

92 Recent searches

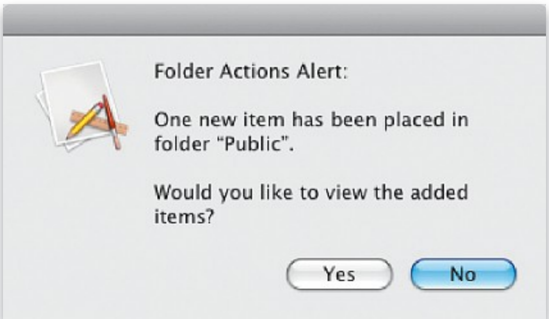
Safari saves the last 10 searches you entered in the Google search box at the top right; click the magnifying glass to see them, then press **Clear Recent Searches** if you want to clear the list.

93 Automatic notification

Among the scripts supplied for **Folder Actions** is one to pop up a notification when something is added to a folder. This is ideal if other users are dropping files for your attention. Remarkably, it even works on folders within your iDisk, which is stored on Apple's servers rather than within your Mac. Using **Configure Folder Actions** (as in tip 63), select your **iDisk Public** folder and attach the **Action** as follows: **add - new item alert.scpt**. When anyone adds a file to this folder, an alert will pop up on your Mac asking if you'd like to view the added items. Note that it may take a minute or two for this to happen.

94 Publish calendars

Should you want to share an *iCal* calendar online, you can right-click it in the left pane and then click **Publish**. If you click **Send Mail** this will tell other users where to find it. Either tick **Publish Changes Automatically**, or right-click and choose **Refresh** whenever you want to update it. Go > iDisk > Other User's Public Folder, in *Finder*.



Folder Actions Alert:

One new item has been placed in folder "Public".

Would you like to view the added items?

Receive automatic notifications whenever another user adds files to your Public folder.

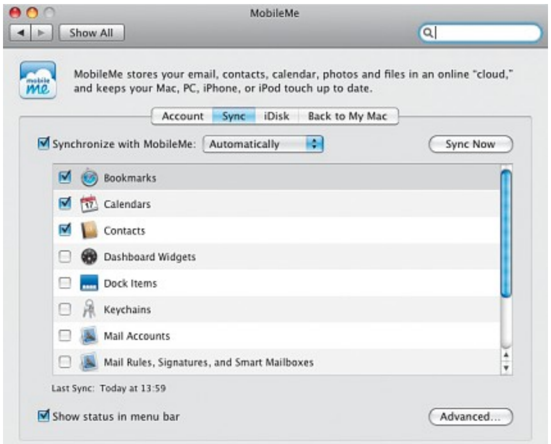
#95 MICROSOFT EXCHANGE EMAIL

You may already be familiar with 'push' email, especially if you have a Microsoft Exchange server at work. You can get your work email pushed to your iPhone or iPod touch by setting up an Exchange ActiveSync account, as explained at **support.apple.com/kb/HT2480**.

However, keep in mind that you can't have it both ways: mail can only be synced from MobileMe or from Exchange, not both. It may make more sense to auto-forward your work email to your MobileMe account, or vice versa. You can sync contacts and calendars from both systems at once, but the two sets of data stay separate.

96 Update software

Keep the Mac OS and Apple applications updated online to ensure you have the latest features, bug fixes and security protection. In *System Preferences*, click **Software Update** and make sure **Check for updates** is ticked and set it to no less often than **Weekly**. Tick **Download important updates automatically** – this means any new patches will be downloaded from the internet as soon as they're available, but *Software Update* will pop up and ask you before installing them on your Mac, which will then be quick. Adobe and Microsoft programs also have automatic update services.



MobileMe stores your email, contacts, calendar, photos and files in an online "cloud," and keeps your Mac, PC, iPhone, or iPod touch up to date.

☑ Synchronize with MobileMe: Automatically

☑ Bookmarks
☑ Calendars
☑ Contacts
☐ Dashboard Widgets
☐ Dock Items
☐ Keychains
☐ Mail Accounts
☐ Mail Rules, Signatures, and Smart Mailboxes

Last Sync: Today at 13:59

☑ Show status in menu bar

Sync work emails with MobileMe to receive on your iPhone.

97 Import addresses

Drag selected text from any editing app onto *Safari*'s program icon. If the clipping begins with **http://**, *Safari* will go to this URL. If not, it'll do a Google search for the text. (With other browsers, only the URL will work.)

98 Export addresses

Drag any link or image from a web page onto *TextEdit*'s program icon – shown in the Dock by default – to copy its web address (URL) into a blank document. Or drag onto an existing document window to paste it in.

99 Export phone numbers

If you use *Skype*, select a phone number in any app and drag it onto the *Skype* icon to dial. This can be used to quickly dial a number found on a website.

100 Public iDisk

If you have MobileMe, your iDisk is a great way to exchange files with others. Go to iDisk and you'll find it contains a **Public** folder, which others can access; the rest of your iDisk is private. Go to System Preferences > MobileMe and click the **iDisk** tab. Under **Your iDisk Public Folder**, choose whether users can write files here or only read files you put in. You can also set a password. Tell other users the web address shown here (**http://public.me.com/[yourname]**) and they can access your iDisk in a web browser. If they're Mac users, they can also use Go > iDisk > Other User's Public Folder, in *Finder*. ●

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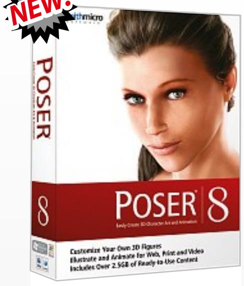
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- Seemlessly manage scene assets and content
- Fit existing clothing assets to new figures
- Create full body morphs
- 8 new fully-rigged, fully-posable photo-real human characters

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Blend Styles
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PB Sneaker
PB Strut
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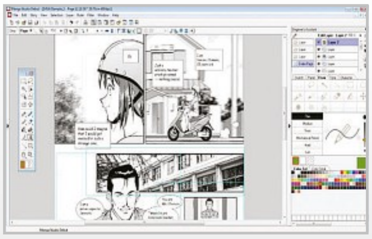
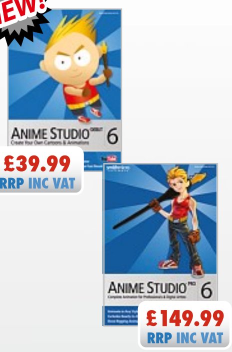


NEW!



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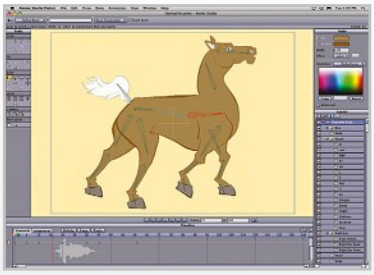
Anime Studio Pro 6

Anime Studio Pro is perfect for professionals looking for a more efficient alternative to tedious frame-by-frame detailing when creating quality animations. With an intuitive interface and loaded with pre-rigged characters and additional content, Anime Studio Pro delivers advanced animation tools and effects to speed up your workflow.



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Visit www.softlineuk.com for more product information

"Outgrown iPhoto? Not to worry; there are plenty of options"

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO APERTURE P48

Aperture File Edit View Images Stacks Metadata Window Help
Steve Paris
Inspector
Projects
Metadata
Adjustments
White Balance
Exposure
Enhance
Levels
Highlights & Shadows
1 selected - 63 images displayed

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How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

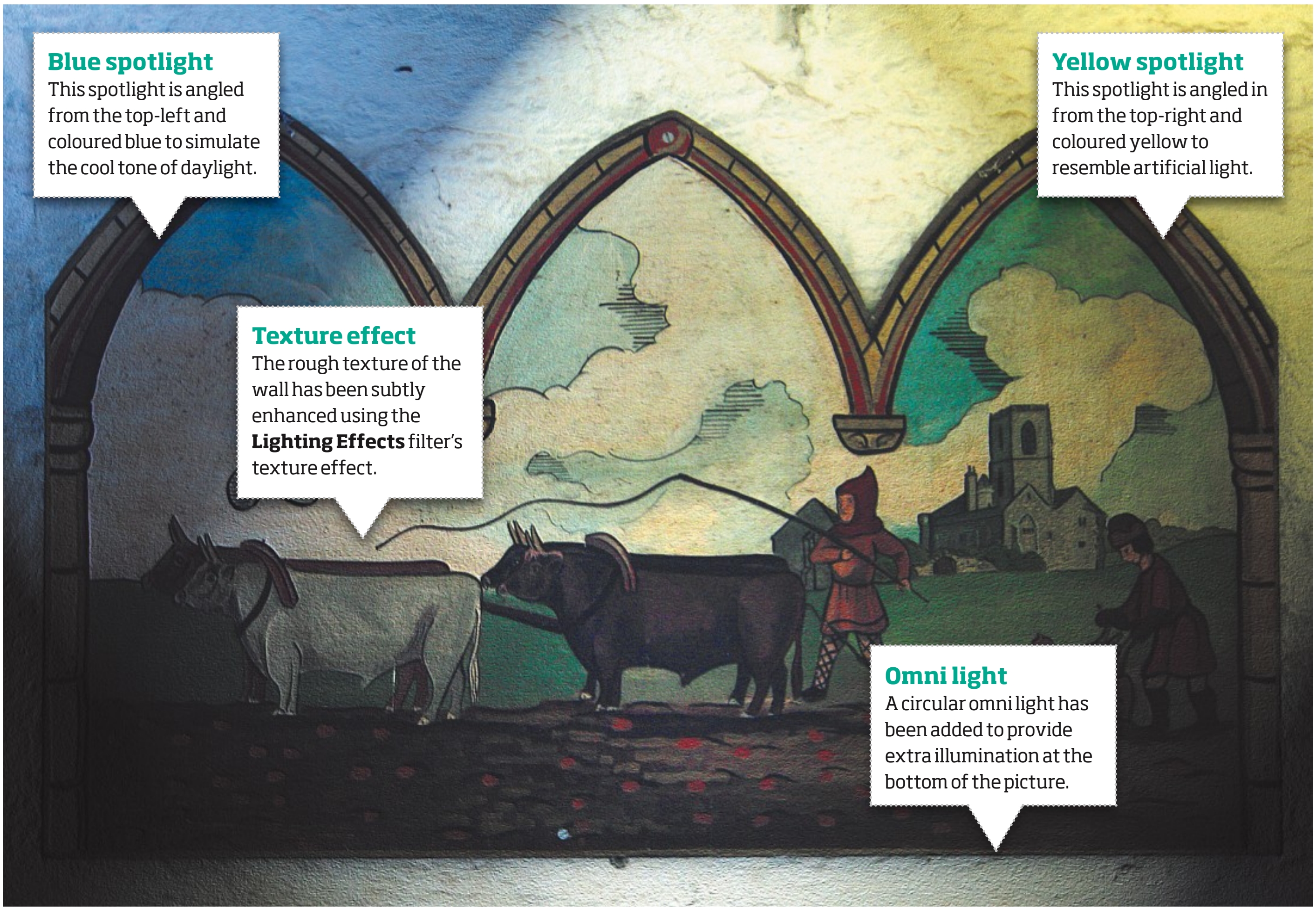
Many of us, at the end of summer, have hundred of photos to sort through. But the good news is that, whether you're a beginner or looking to graduate to more advanced solutions, we've got you covered. We've written a fantastic tutorial on sharing *iPhoto*'s slideshows, and there's also a superb beginner's guide to *Aperture*, Apple's pro photo-management and editing app.

And as well as loads of other creative tutorials – including an excellent one from Steve Paris on adding themes and transitions in *iMovie* – we've also got some cracking technical and productivity advice as well. Worth highlighting is our walkthrough on migrating your *Time Machine* backup to a bigger disk – should you fill your current one – and learn from Chris Brennan how to speed up how quickly your Mac fetches websites with a handy DNS tip.

We also welcome a new writer to the MacFormat stable: Dave Stevenson has written up a fantastic piece on using services from Google to cut your hosting bill to zero – ideal for small businesses, great for the rest of us, too!

>> DID YOU KNOW?

Under OS X 10.5 Leopard, hold down ⇧ when you adjust your Mac's volume, and it will silence the click – or you can use the **Sounds** pane of *System Preferences* to disable it permanently). Holding down ⌥+⇧ gives you more increments for the adjustment, so you can set your volume much more precisely.



Blue spotlight
This spotlight is angled from the top-left and coloured blue to simulate the cool tone of daylight.

Yellow spotlight
This spotlight is angled in from the top-right and coloured yellow to resemble artificial light.

Texture effect
The rough texture of the wall has been subtly enhanced using the **Lighting Effects** filter's texture effect.

Omni light
A circular omni light has been added to provide extra illumination at the bottom of the picture.

Add some light to images

With Photoshop's Lighting Effects filter you can relight the drabbest subjects

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements for Mac (from £68, **www.adobe.com/uk**), a drab image to lighten

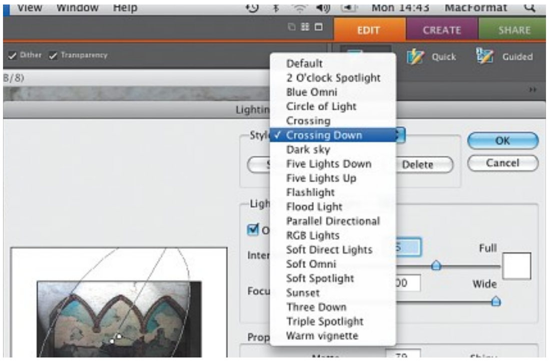
You'll find the Lighting Effects filter on the Filter > Render menu in both *Photoshop* and *Elements*, and it's a tool that's worth getting to know because of the range of effects you can create with it.

The basic principle is that you can use one or more lights to illuminate the picture. These lights come in three types: directional, omni and spotlight. It's the last two we'll use here. Omni lights create a circular pool of light, while spotlights create an angled cone of light – you can change the direction and angle of these spotlights.

What you have to remember, though, is that you're working with a two-dimensional image. It's like using these lights to illuminate a flat print on your Desktop. This does limit the effects you can achieve and the type of subjects likely to respond well to this treatment.

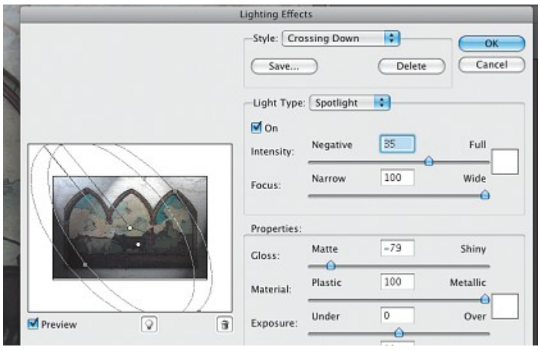
In this walkthrough we're enhancing photos, but the Lighting Effects filter has another role as a tool for adding textures and 3D effects to artificially generated graphics. It can be used, for example, to create highly realistic stone, rust and bevel effects.

Rod Lawton


View Window Help
Mon 14:43 MacFormat
EDIT
CREATE
SHARE
Dither
Transparency
Quick
Guided
Default
2 O'clock Spotlight
Blue Omni
Circle of Light
Crossing
✓ Crossing Down
Dark sky
Five Lights Down
Five Lights Up
Flashlight
Flood Light
Parallel Directional
RGB Lights
Soft Direct Lights
Soft Omni
Soft Spotlight
Sunset
Three Down
Triple Spotlight
Warm vignette
OK
Cancel
Delete
Full
Wide

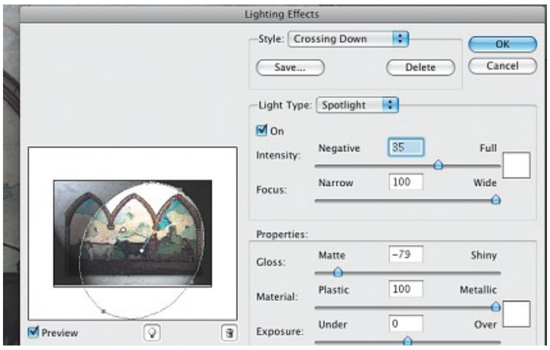
01 Lighting styles

Setting up lighting effects can be slow, so look at the pre-configured effects in the **Style** menu. We're using the **Crossing Down** style, which consists of two spotlights angled in from the top corners so that they cross in the middle. It's not quite what we're looking for, but it's a good start. When you've come up with a lighting effect of your own, press the **Save** button to add it to the **Style** menu.


Lighting Effects
Style: Crossing Down
Light Type: Spotlight
☑ On
Intensity: Negative 35 Full
Focus: Narrow 100 Wide
Properties:
Gloss: Matte -79 Shiny
Material: Plastic 100 Metallic
Exposure: Under 0 Over
☑ Preview

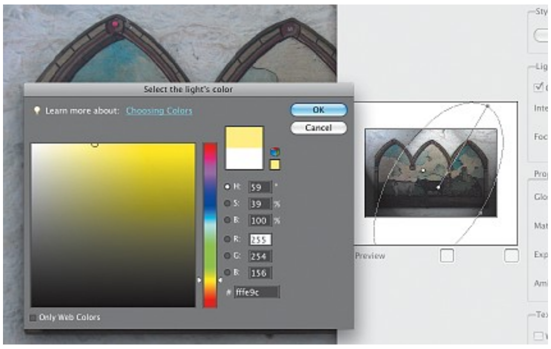
02 Moving lights

Each of the filter's styles adds one or more lights to the scene, and you can drag these around to change the way the picture is lit by dragging the round white handle in the centre. In the case of spotlights, dragging them outside the edge of the image softens their effect so you don't get such an obvious cone of light.


Lighting Effects
Style: Crossing Down
Light Type: Spotlight
☑ On
Intensity: Negative 35 Full
Focus: Narrow 100 Wide
Properties:
Gloss: Matte -79 Shiny
Material: Plastic 100 Metallic
Exposure: Under 0 Over
☑ Preview

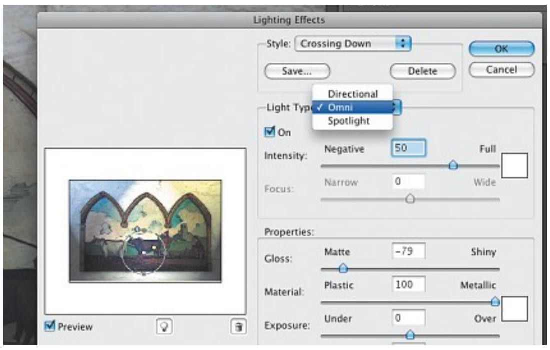
03 Adjusting spotlights

There are three types of light, and the spotlights we're using are the trickiest. The round white centre handle is joined to a grey square handle, which represents the spotlight's elevation (even though we're working in 2D here). If you drag the grey square closer to the round centre handle, you steepen the angle of the spotlight.


Select the light's color
Learn more about: Choosing Colors
H: 59 °
S: 39 %
B: 100 %
R: 255
G: 254
B: 156
# fffe9c
☐ Only Web Colors

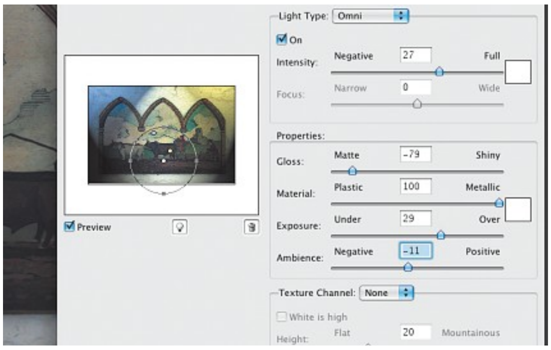
04 Changing a light's colour

To change the colour of a light, make sure you've got the right one selected, and then click on the colour swatch in the **Light Type** section. This displays the **Color Picker**. It's best to stick to fairly pale colours – even a slight tint will make a big difference to the result. We're using a pale blue for the left spotlight and yellow for the right.


Lighting Effects
Style: Crossing Down
Light Type: Omni
Directional
✓ Omni
Spotlight
☑ On
Intensity: Negative 50 Full
Focus: Narrow 0 Wide
Properties:
Gloss: Matte -79 Shiny
Material: Plastic 100 Metallic
Exposure: Under 0 Over
☑ Preview

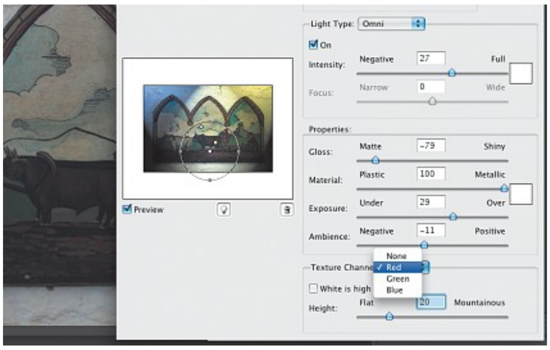
05 Adding an omni light

Sometimes your pictures will need a little extra illumination; the bottom of our picture is too dark. To fix this, drag a new light on to the preview image (the lightbulb icon). Then choose the **Light Type** from the pop-up to the right. An omni light is ideal as it provides a soft, spreading light that blends in subtly with the other two.


Light Type: Omni
☑ On
Intensity: Negative 27 Full
Focus: Narrow 0 Wide
Properties:
Gloss: Matte -79 Shiny
Material: Plastic 100 Metallic
Exposure: Under 29 Over
Ambience: Negative -11 Positive
Texture Channel: None
☐ White is high
Height: Flat 20 Mountainous
☑ Preview

06 Exposure and Ambience

The **Lighting Effects** filter can be tricky. The key controls here are **Exposure** and **Ambience**. The **Ambience** slider controls the intensity of the ambient (background) lighting (you can change its colour, too), while the **Exposure** slider can be used to adjust the overall brightness and, especially, to avoid clipped highlights.


Light Type: Omni
☑ On
Intensity: Negative 27 Full
Focus: Narrow 0 Wide
Properties:
Gloss: Matte -79 Shiny
Material: Plastic 100 Metallic
Exposure: Under 29 Over
Ambience: Negative -11 Positive
Texture Channel: Red
None
✓ Red
Green
Blue
☐ White is high
Height: Flat 20 Mountainous
☑ Preview

07 Texture channel

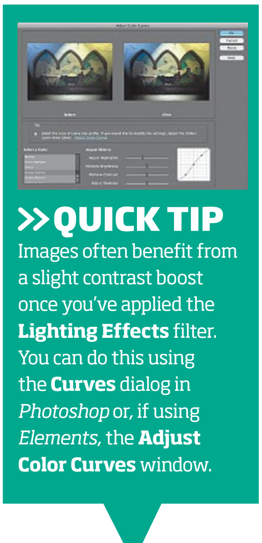
We're using the **Lighting Effects** filter to relight a photo, but it can also be used to create 3D lighting effects with user-defined alpha channels. That's a topic best left for another time, but let's enhance the textures in our photo by selecting the **Red** channel from the pop-up and then choosing a modest **Height** value of 20. ●

EXPERT TIP

Other effects

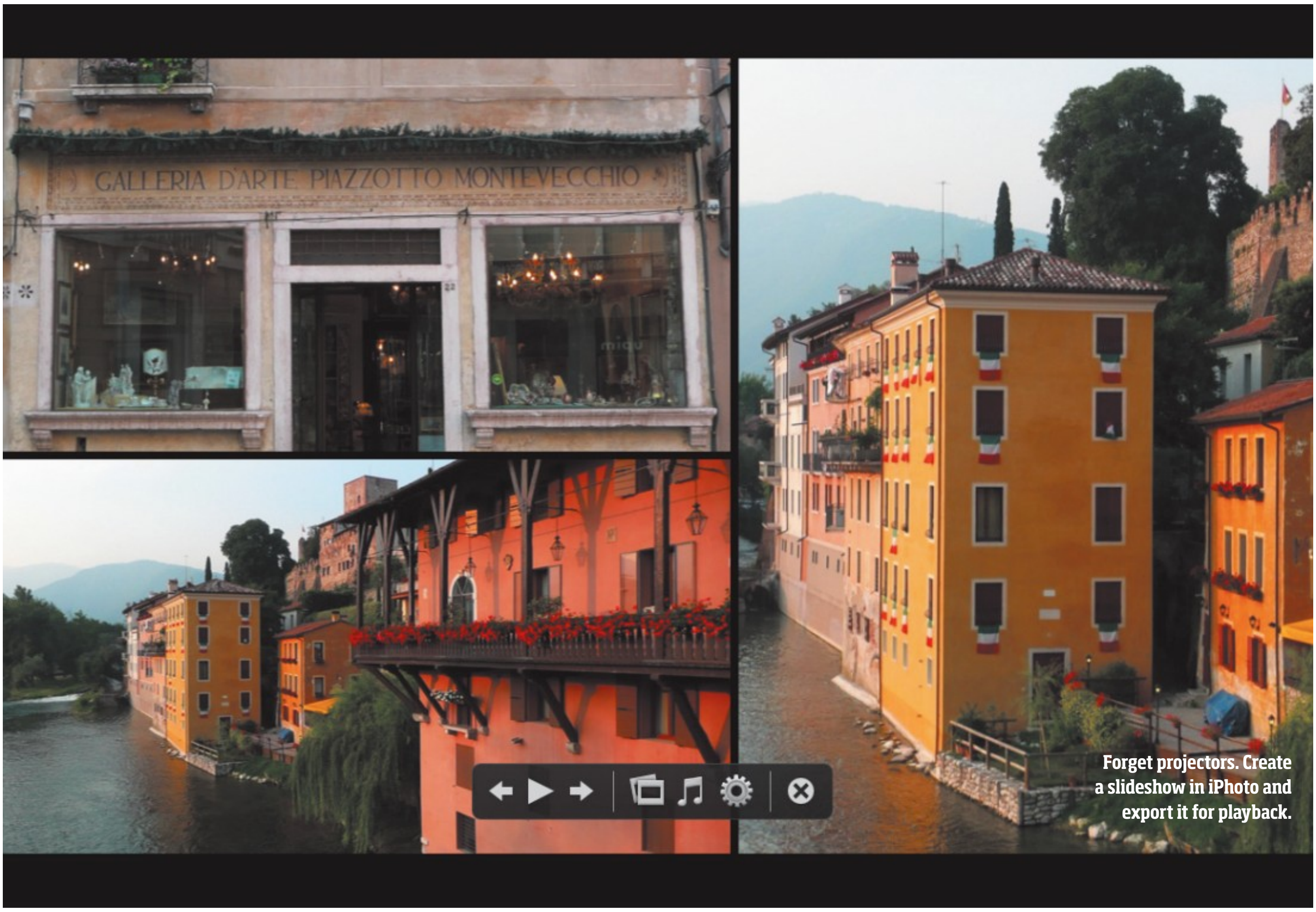
The **Lighting Effects** filter works best on largely 2D subjects like the old wall painting in our shots. It can be adapted for general photography, though, and in this example we've used it to create a 'sunset' effect. It's been done with a single, large amber-coloured spotlight above the image and adjusted so that it has a softened edge, which produces the arc-shaped darkening effect in the sky. The ambient light colour has been set to a deeper red colour to mimic the warm tone of the setting sun. It's then been saved to the **Style** menu so that it can be applied to any other image. Try the **Flashlight** style, too. You can drag on the light's edge handles to enlarge and soften the effect, and it's handy for subtly focusing attention on specific parts of a scene.

Rod Lawton's a digital imaging specialist who loves Photoshop.



>> QUICK TIP

Images often benefit from a slight contrast boost once you've applied the **Lighting Effects** filter. You can do this using the **Curves** dialog in *Photoshop* or, if using *Elements*, the **Adjust Color Curves** window.


Forget projectors. Create a slideshow in iPhoto and export it for playback.

Share iPhoto slideshows

iPhoto slideshows are a great way to show off your pictures

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 60 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Apple iPhoto '09 (£69, part of Apple iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

The **Slideshow** feature in *iPhoto* is easy to use and very effective, and the new themes in *iPhoto '09* can give even the most everyday holiday snaps a professional gloss. And you can even add a soundtrack with *iTunes*.

And the thing is, you don't have to gather your friends and family round the computer screen to play it back. You can export your slideshows as movie files for playing back in *iTunes*, *QuickTime Player* or even YouTube.

We did encounter a sound problem – it would play back in *iPhoto*, but not in exported movie files. We did try to get a response from Apple, but while the tech support team did send a link to an Apple support doc, it didn't answer the question. However, two days later Apple released the Mac OS X 10.5.8 update and the problem appears to have been fixed.

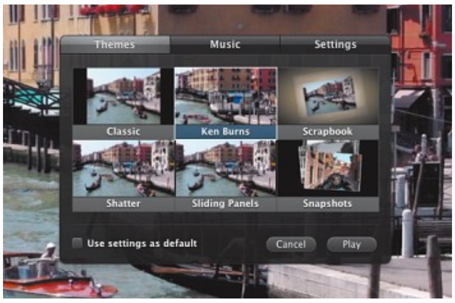
Otherwise, creating slideshows is straightforward and there are two ways of doing it. The simplest and most obvious way is to select an album and then hit the **Slideshow** button at the bottom of the **iPhoto** window. Then choose a theme, the music and any custom settings for your slideshow using the three tabs on the floating window. These settings aren't saved (you can apply them as defaults) and you haven't created a permanent slideshow with its own settings. When you play slideshows in this way, you'll need to set them up manually each time.

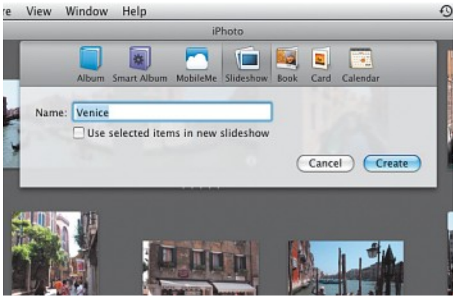
> *"You can export your slideshows as movie files for playing back in iTunes, QuickTime Player or YouTube"*

But you can create and save a permanent slideshow using the File > New Album command and choosing the **Slideshow** option. These slideshows are then saved in their own section in the **Source** list. Slideshows play back in full screen on the Mac, but if you want to pause, rewind or advance the slideshow, move the mouse pointer down to the bottom of the screen to display a filmstrip and a control panel.

Rod Lawton

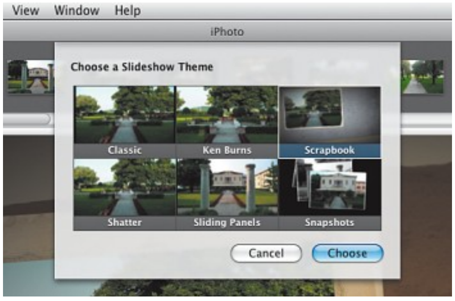
HOW TO / Use iPhoto to create and share slideshows


Themes
Music
Settings
Classic
Ken Burns
Scrapbook
Shatter
Sliding Panels
Snapshots
Use settings as default
Cancel
Play


View Window Help
iPhoto
Album
Smart Album
MobileMe
Slideshow
Book
Card
Calendar
Cancel
Create

Name: Venice

☐ Use selected items in new slideshow


View Window Help
iPhoto
Choose a Slideshow Theme
Classic
Ken Burns
Scrapbook
Shatter
Sliding Panels
Snapshots
Cancel
Choose

01 Quick slideshows

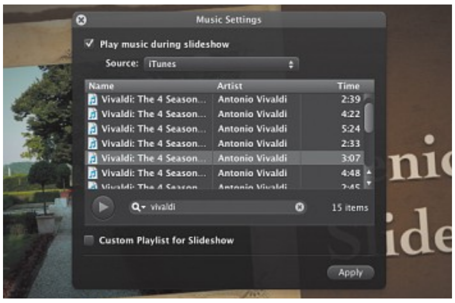
You can create a quick ad hoc slideshow just by selecting an album and hitting the **Slideshow** button. This pops up a window with **Theme**, **Music** and **Settings** options. Themes include **Classic** and **Ken Burns** slideshow styles as well as the new options in *iPhoto '09*.

02 Creating a slideshow

If you want to save a custom slideshow permanently, hit ⌘+N and choose the **Slideshow** button in the project window. Slideshows are saved to the **Slideshow** section in the **Source** panel on the left by default, though you can move them later if you want to.

03 Choosing a theme

With the new slideshow selected, you'll see the **Themes**, **Music** and **Settings** buttons at the bottom of the **iPhoto** window again, but this time the settings are saved with the slideshow itself. The **Scrapbook** theme is especially good for travel photos.

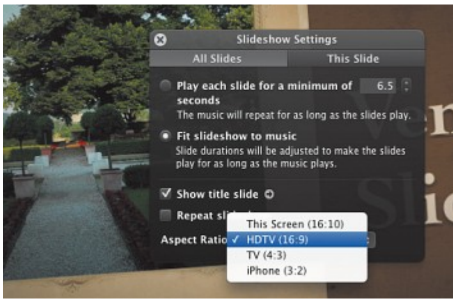

Music Settings
Custom Playlist for Slideshow
Apply

☑ Play music during slideshow

Source: iTunes

Name	Artist	Time
Vivaldi: The 4 Season...	Antonio Vivaldi	2:39
Vivaldi: The 4 Season...	Antonio Vivaldi	4:22
Vivaldi: The 4 Season...	Antonio Vivaldi	5:24
Vivaldi: The 4 Season...	Antonio Vivaldi	2:33
Vivaldi: The 4 Season...	Antonio Vivaldi	3:07
Vivaldi: The 4 Season...	Antonio Vivaldi	4:48

vivaldi 15 items


Slideshow Settings
All Slides
This Slide
This Screen (16:10)
HDTV (16:9)
TV (4:3)
iPhone (3:2)

Play each slide for a minimum of 6.5 seconds
The music will repeat for as long as the slides play.

● Fit slideshow to music
Slide durations will be adjusted to make the slides play for as long as the music plays.

☑ Show title slide

☐ Repeat sl

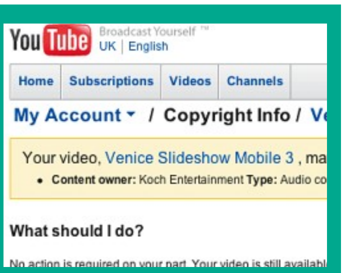
Aspect Ratio ✓ HDTV (16:9)

04 Choosing music

Slideshows work well with soundtracks; there are some supplied with *iPhoto '09* but you can also raid your *iTunes* library. If you're going to upload your slideshow to YouTube, stick to music imported from CD as there are fewer problems with digital rights management (DRM).

05 Slideshow settings

With the slideshow settings you can get *iPhoto* to automatically adjust the duration of the slideshow to match the length of the audio soundtrack, and adjust the aspect ratio to match the device it's going to be played back on. Select **This Slide** to apply effects to individual images.


YouTube
Broadcast Yourself ™
UK | English
Home
Subscriptions
Videos
Channels
My Account / Copyright Info / V

Your video, Venice Slideshow Mobile 3 , ma

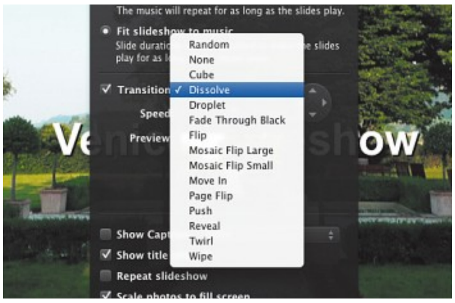
- **Content owner:** Koch Entertainment **Type:** Audio co

What should I do?

No action is required on your part. Your video is still availabl

QUICK TIP

You can upload exported slideshow movie files to YouTube, but Google is hot on DRM. It won't play back the (licensed) music supplied with *iPhoto*'s **Themes** and may not play back audio CD tracks, (you'll get an email from Google with the details).


Random
None
Cube
✓ Dissolve
Droplet
Fade Through Black
Flip
Mosaic Flip Large
Mosaic Flip Small
Move In
Page Flip
Push
Reveal
Twirl
Wipe
Speed
Preview
Show Cap
Show title

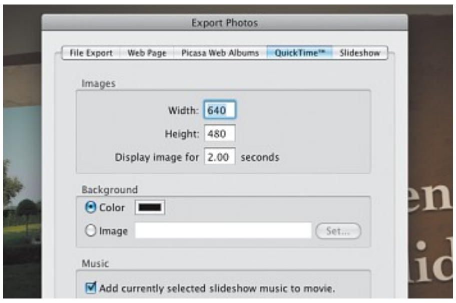
The music will repeat for as long as the slides play.

● Fit slideshow to music

☑ Transition ✓ Dissolve

☑ Repeat slideshow

☑ Scale photos to fill screen


Export Photos
File Export
Web Page
Picasa Web Albums
QuickTime™
Slideshow
Images
Background
Music
Set...

Width: 640

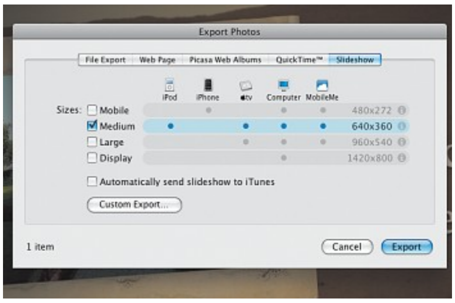
Height: 480

Display image for 2.00 seconds

● Color

○ Image

☑ Add currently selected slideshow music to movie.


Export Photos
File Export
Web Page
Picasa Web Albums
QuickTime™
Slideshow
iPod
iPhone
tv
Computer
MobileMe
Custom Export...
1 item
Cancel
Export

Sizes:

☐ Mobile		480x272
☑ Medium	● ● ● ●	640x360
☐ Large		960x540
☐ Display		1420x800

☐ Automatically send slideshow to iTunes

06 Advanced settings

iPhoto '09's themes only offer a certain amount of customisation; choose the **Classic** theme for more choices. For example, you can choose the transition type from a drop-down list, and the **This Slide** panel lets you adjust transitions and durations for individual slides.

07 QuickTime export

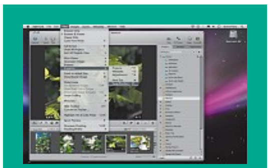
There are two ways to export your finished slideshow. If you use File > Export and choose **QuickTime** in the **Export Photos** panel, you'll get a simple slideshow, consisting of the photos in your album and a basic *QuickTime* fade/dissolve effect. You don't get a movie.

08 Slideshow export

Instead, choose the **Slideshow** option (this is also what you get if you click **Export** in the **iPhoto** window). Here you can choose the resolution of your exported movie. Higher resolutions render very slowly, so don't make the movies any bigger than they need to be. ●

Get started with Aperture

If you find iPhoto constraining, it may be time to look at Apple's pro alternative



» QUICK TIP
By default, the **Inspector Sidebar** containing your **Projects, Metadata** and **Adjustments** tabs is located to the left. Place it on the right using View > Inspector > Swap Position, or by hitting ⇧+I.

Apple *iPhoto* is one of the most used programs of the *iLife* suite. As such, it boasts a lot of tools designed to make your digital life easier. But despite its usefulness, it's clearly aimed at the enthusiastic amateur and, as such, lacks some features that professionals need for their workflow. There are ways around this of course: you can set the editing function in *iPhoto* to launch another program, such as *Photoshop*, to do most of the heavy lifting for you, relegating *iPhoto* to a simple photo manager. However, even in that category, there are ways in which *iPhoto* could be improved upon.

It's for this reason that Apple launched *Aperture* back in late 2005. It was designed to offer the more professional photographers a one-stop shop for most of their image-editing needs. It doesn't pretend to be a replacement for programs such as *Photoshop* or *Pixelmator*, but it does provide editing tools so you can perform adjustments such as colour correction that go way beyond what *iPhoto* has to offer. Thanks to them, you shouldn't have to visit another application for nearly all of your work.

> *"It's clearly aimed at the enthusiastic amateur and lacks some features that professionals need"*

You have at your disposal many varied tools to make adjustments to your stills. You can, for instance, do the usual basic alterations such as changing the white balance, exposure, contrast and saturation, but you can also alter individual colours and even modify the parameters that work out how the information contained within a raw image should be displayed (see 'Working with raw', right, for more information about this format).

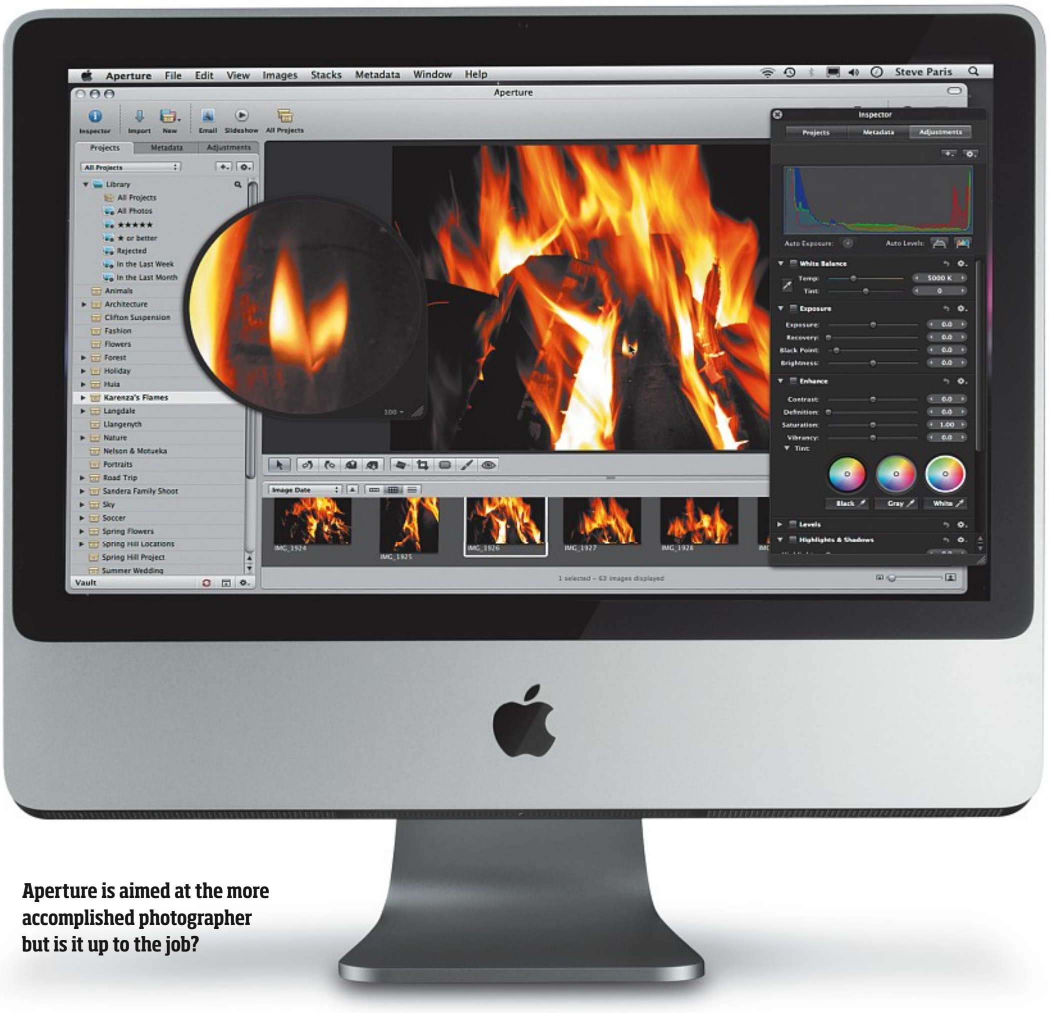
Plugged in

You also have powerful retouching tools to remove blemishes or even entire objects from an image, along with traditional ones such as **Straighten**, **Crop**, **Flip** and **Red-eye correction**. But just because you can't see a tool in your *Aperture* arsenal doesn't mean that one isn't available: the latest version enables third-party developers to write plug-ins for it. There are dozens available offering extensions to the default set such as additional editing tools, exports options and automation features. You can find out about all of them by visiting **www.apple.com/uk/aperture/resources/plugins.html**.

One of the best features of *Aperture* is the fact that none of the changes you make to a photo is permanent: the original image is never altered and all the modifications you've made are stored in a separate file. This means you can tweak them at any time without ever losing any quality. Since all you see are tickboxes, sliders and numerical fields, it's also extremely easy to know which tool was used and how its parameters were adjusted for a particular image. Sadly, this doesn't apply to third-party plug-ins. In this case, *Aperture* saves a copy of the modified image so that the original remains untouched.

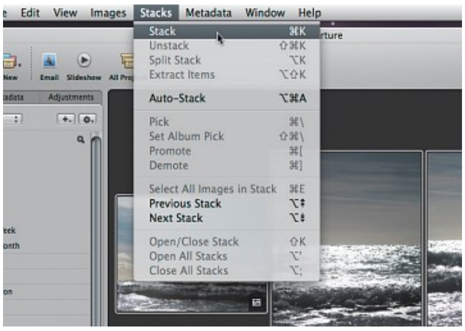
Display options

There are other advantages to *Aperture* that make it even more appealing. For one thing, you can


Aperture File Edit View Images Stacks Metadata Window Help
Steve Paris
Inspector
Projects Metadata Adjustments
White Balance
Exposure
Enhance
Levels
Highlights & Shadows
Vault

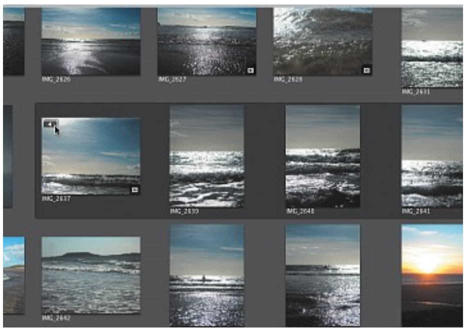
Aperture is aimed at the more accomplished photographer but is it up to the job?

HOW TO / Use Stacks in Aperture


Edit
View
Images
Stacks
Metadata
Window
Help
Stack
Unstack
Split Stack
Extract Items
Auto-Stack
Pick
Set Album Pick
Promote
Demote
Select All Images in Stack
Previous Stack
Next Stack
Open/Close Stack
Open All Stacks
Close All Stacks

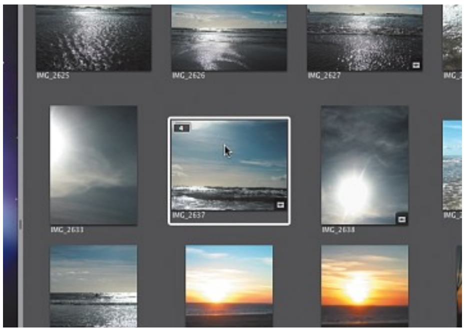
01 Create a Stack

Creating projects and albums is only part of your organisational abilities in *Aperture*. There's a feature called **Stacks** and it works like this: select a project or album, highlight a series of images then go to Stacks > Stack.



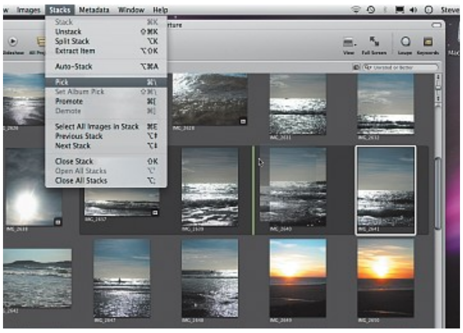
02 Visual queues

The selected photos are grouped and wrapped in a dark-grey cartouche to make it clear that they belong together. At the top-left of the first picture is a number, letting you know how many photos there are in that Stack. Click on it.



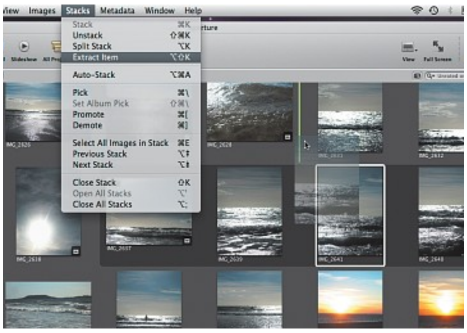
03 Closing the Stack

The Stack collapses and only the first photo is displayed. The only way of telling that it's a Stack is by the numerical value shown on the thumbnail. To expand the Stack, click on that number again (or go to Stacks > Open All Stacks).



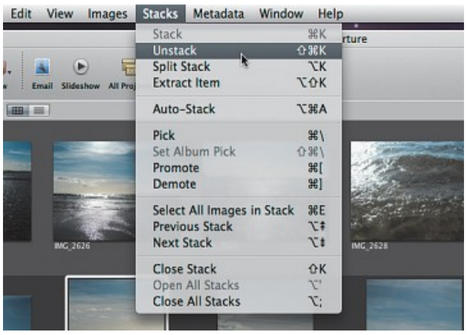
04 Reorder photos

Drag pictures around inside the Stack to reorder them. A green vertical line shows you where the photo will end up once you release the mouse button. You can go to Stacks > Pick or use ⌘+\ to move a shot to the top of the Stack.



05 Drag in and out

To remove an image, drag it out until that green vertical line appears outside the Stack (or use ⇧+⌥+K). You can also drag a photo into your Stack. Alternatively, click on a picture in the Stack, highlight others and go to Stacks > Stack.


Edit
View
Images
Stacks
Metadata
Window
Help
Stack
Unstack
Split Stack
Extract Item
Auto-Stack
Pick
Set Album Pick
Promote
Demote
Select All Images in Stack
Previous Stack
Next Stack
Close Stack
Open All Stacks
Close All Stacks

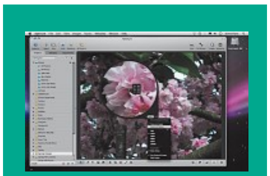
06 Delete the Stack

To delete a Stack, you could drag every picture out of it as described above, but there's a more convenient way: select any photo from it and go to Stack > Unstack (or use ⇧+⌘+K). This also works if the Stack is collapsed. ●

display as much or as little of the interface as you need. By default, you have a large sidebar to the left with a browser displaying thumbnails of your stills at the bottom and a viewer section showing the selected images at the top. However, a few keystrokes can remove all of this so you can focus solely on a particular shot: I removes the sidebar; V cycles between the standard viewer and browser view, filling the window with the browser, instead of focusing just on the viewer; H transforms the sidebar into a floating window and F switches you to full-screen mode, replacing the desktop and any open window with a black canvas and offering as much of your screen as possible to the photo you're working on. In that mode, all the tools you need appear as icons at the top of the screen and your browser is at the bottom. Both are hidden by default and only appear when you move the cursor to the top or bottom of the screen in a manner very similar to a hidden Dock. If that isn't enough for you, *Aperture* also supports multiple displays, meaning you could set up the interface to compare two images, at full resolution, side by side.

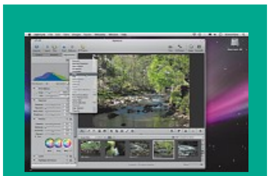
> *"Organise yourself any way you see fit – drag an item to another location in the Projects sidebar, for instance"*

A few of the tools available draw their inspiration from traditional real-world objects that are used in photography. For example, *Aperture* doesn't let you zoom into your image as *Photoshop* would. The picture scales depending on the space it has available within the interface and you can also zoom to its actual size so that every pixel is displayed as it should be, but the way you can focus on a particular section is by using the **Loupe** tool (View > Show Loupe). This object works in two ways: you can



QUICK TIP

To alter the *Loupe*'s behaviour and have it focus on where the cursor is, click on the numerical value at the bottom-right of the **Loupe** and choose **Focus on Cursor**.



>> QUICK TIP

Not all editing tools are displayed when you pick the **Adjustments** tab. To gain access to the hidden ones, click on the **+** button at the top-right of the sidebar. Select one from the menu to add it to the list (if an option is greyed-out, it means that the tool has already been selected).

place it over your photo and whatever it lands on gets magnified from 100% up to 1600%, or set it to one side, change a setting and whatever your cursor is hovering on gets magnified in the loupe. There are also advantages to having a digital loupe: you can, for example, choose to see the colour value of the centre pixel you're currently over.

Follow the light

Another feature that's been inspired by the real world is the **Light table**, which you can use to place multiple photos onto and then rearrange them to see which ones work best together. Again, the digital advantages of this tool are obvious: you can resize photos individually, your surface area is unlimited and you can create as many tables as you need, to name but three.

When it comes to organising your photos, **Aperture**'s focus is on **Projects**, which behave similarly to **Events** in *iPhoto* in that your shots can only reside in a single project, unless it's duplicated. Unlike *iPhoto*, the **Project** folder looks after everything that has to do with it: any albums, light tables, web galleries or books that you create are stored within the project itself, making it easier to see which items belong to which project.

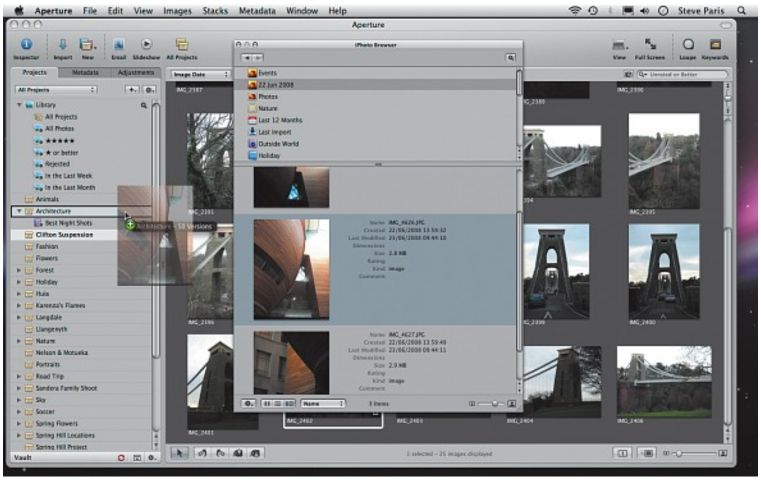
This is by no means compulsory and you can organise yourself any way you see fit – by dragging an item to another location in the **Projects** sidebar, for instance. Also, just like in *iPhoto*, you can have images from different projects in the same albums. However, there is an added level of flexibility that doesn't exist in *iPhoto* and makes organisation much more adaptable: you can further organise your stills within an album or project with the use of **Stacks** (see the step-by-step walkthrough, above, for more details on this feature).

> *"A few of the tools draw their inspiration from traditional real-world objects that are used in photography"*

By default, *Aperture* stores all your photos in a file called the **Aperture Library** located in your **Pictures** folder. As with *iPhoto*, you can keep that file elsewhere, such as on a larger external drive, but unlike *iPhoto*, you can actually have your shots outside that file so that you can keep them organised yourself in *Finder* or have a collection spanning multiple drives. This is done straight from the **Import** panel: there's a **Store File** pop-up menu on the right, from which you can choose to save the photos to the library, keep them in their current location or select another folder of your choice to move them to.

Quicker importing

The importing process also has a handy timesaver: you can select which project or album to save your new photos to, straight from that section. No more having to move your shots to their proper location once they've been added to your library.



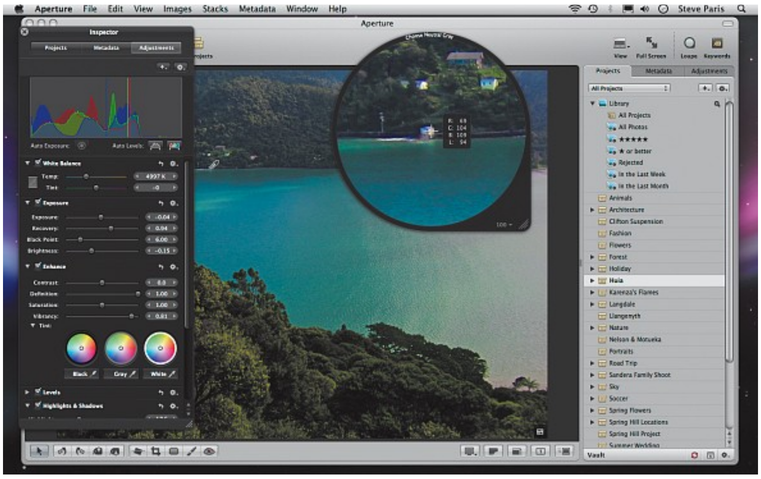
Use the iPhoto Browser window to look through older photos and choose one to work with.

>> HOW TO / Work with raw

Raw isn't an acronym but means that, unlike a JPEG image, what you're getting is the unprocessed lossless data from the camera. It isn't a file format either, since each manufacturer – and even specific camera models – creates different Raw files that aren't compatible with one another. *Aperture* can read most of them and you can find a full list of all supported cameras here: **www.apple.com/uk/aperture/specs/raw.html**.

Translating this data can often be a little tricky and version 1.0 of *Aperture* received a lot of flack for making the wrong choices when doing this, leading to unwanted artefacts on certain photos. You'll be pleased to know that this problem has been resolved with the current version, which also offers you the ability to tweak this process yourself thanks to the **RAW File Tuning** parameters, should you find *Aperture*'s automatic conversion not as good as you had hoped.

Aside from the customary sliders, you can even switch from one raw engine to another to see if one of the older versions worked better for you in a specific case. *Aperture* has three engines at its disposal that it developed alongside version 1.0, 1.1 and 2.0. None has been removed because you may have been perfectly happy with the way your photos looked with an earlier engine and you wouldn't want your photos to change without your consent when upgrading to a new version.



Aperture's powerful adjustments tools can turn a dull image into something more vibrant.

If you're going to start using *Aperture*, chances are you already have a lot of images stored in *iPhoto* and maybe the prospect of moving them to a new program won't too appealing. Thankfully, there are two options open to you for working with your old pictures from within *Aperture*.

Get started

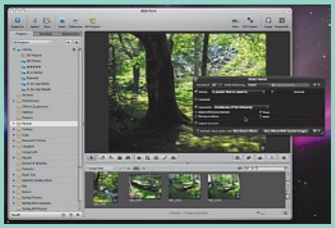
Should you wish to start afresh and only bring in a handful of photographs, try going to File > Show iPhoto Browser. Your *iPhoto* library will appear in a separate window, which you can browse through. There's even a search field available by clicking on the magnifying glass icon at the top-right of that window. If you find shots you'd like to work on in *Aperture*, then select them in the usual way and drag them onto a project of your choice. This process duplicates the images you're importing leading you to have two copies of the same shot on your hard drive, one in *Aperture*, the other in *iPhoto*. If, however, you need to bring over your entire *iPhoto* collection, go to File > Import > iPhoto Library. This will bring up a special import window where you need to locate your library, unless of course *Aperture* was able to find it itself. In which case, your main concern is deciding whether you want to either keep your photos in their current location, move them to the *Aperture* library file or save them somewhere else entirely. If they don't move from where they already are, you'll have to remember not to delete your *iPhoto* library at any time otherwise you'll lose your images from *Aperture* as well.

HOW TO / Search through your photos

Cataloguing your photos can be crucial in helping you find the one you're looking for. You have two methods at your disposal. First, you can apply a star rating to each shot. This is the quickest and easiest system since you can use your number keys to do this in seconds: hit **1** for one star, **2** for two, up to a maximum of five.

If you've got a little more time, you can add keywords. You can do this in various ways but if you've never worked with keywords in *Aperture* before, go to Window > Show Keywords HUD. You'll be presented with a floating window containing all available keywords. If you need to create new ones, go to the bottom of the window and click on the second button from the left. An untitled keyword appears in the list, ready for you to rename it. Once you've got all the keywords you need, select them from the window and drag them onto your shot.

To find a picture, go to Edit > Find or use the ⌘+F keyboard shortcut. A floating window opens up that's designed to help you narrow down your search: tick the **Keywords** box, for instance, to see all those present in your selected project or album.



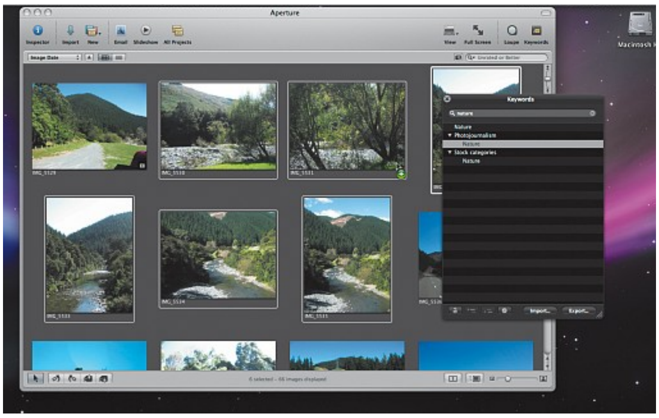
Tick keywords that apply to the shot.

> *"There are two options for you to work with your old iPhoto pictures within Aperture"*

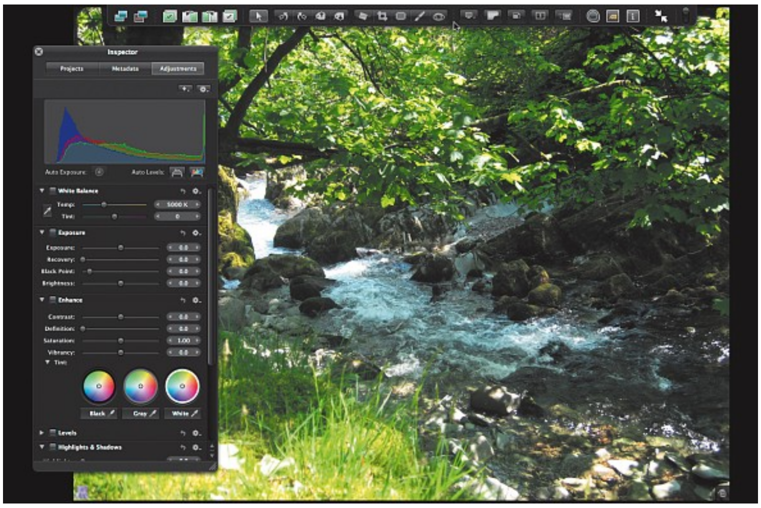
This is where having a good backup policy is absolutely essential. If you're running on Leopard, you could use *Time Machine* to make sure your photos are secure from any accidental deletion or, worse still, a hard-drive failure. However, *Aperture* also has its own backup system called Vaults. Although this method isn't automatic like *Time Machine*, it has advantages over Leopard's solution. For one thing, it provides visual clues when a vault is no longer up to date. All you need to do then is click on the Update button (this is the button bearing two semi-circular arrows, at the bottom-left of the interface). Of greater interest is the fact that you can also set multiple vaults and therefore keep multiple backups of your data. If your photos are precious, then keeping many copies greatly reduces the chances of you ever losing any.

However, bear in mind that this overview just scratches the surface of what *Aperture* is capable of. If you're intrigued and would like to try the program out, you'll be pleased to know that a 30-day fully functioning demo version is available from www.apple.com/uk/aperture/trial. You could use the program to experiment with the points highlighted in this article and then see for yourself whether or not you have outgrown *iLife*'s most popular application.

Steve Paris



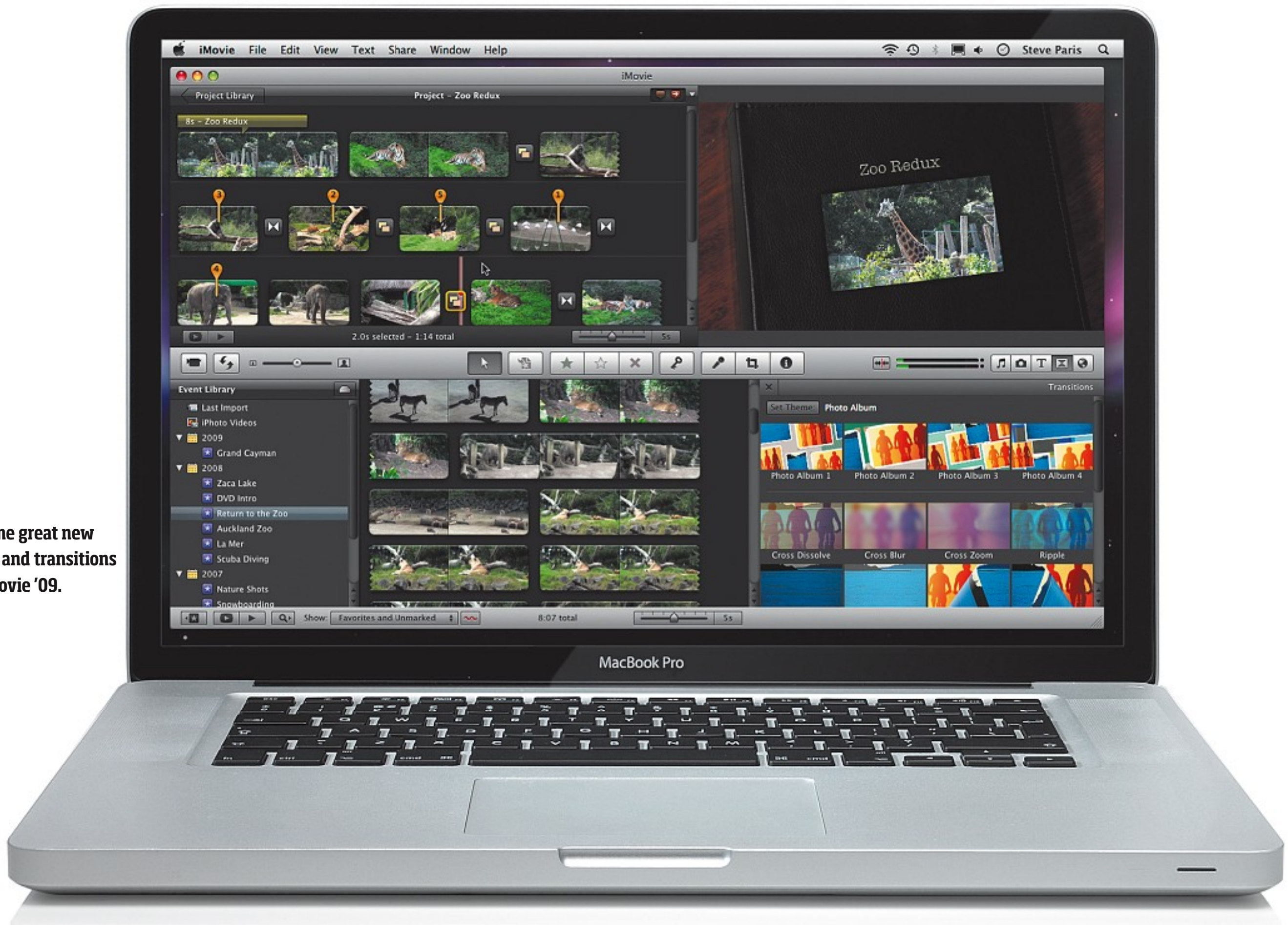
To add keywords to multiple images, select them all in the browser section and drag the keywords onto one of them.



You can focus on an image in full screen mode but still have your tools just a click away.

QUICK TIP

You can access your library from within *iPhoto* by going to File > Show Aperture Library. In fact, your photos can be used by any program equipped with a Media Browser section, such as *iLife* and *iWork* suites, or even third-party apps.


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
Project Library
Project – Zoo Redux
Zoo Redux
2.0s selected – 1:14 total
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2009
Grand Cayman
2008
Zaca Lake
DVD Intro
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
8:07 total
Transitions
Set Theme
Photo Album
Photo Album 1
Photo Album 2
Photo Album 3
Photo Album 4
Cross Dissolve
Cross Blur
Cross Zoom
Ripple
MacBook Pro

Add some great new themes and transitions with iMovie '09.

Add themes and transitions

Let iMovie '09 do the hard work and add a professional touch to your movies

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple iMovie '09 v8.0.4 or later (£69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com**), a basic understanding of iMovie, a project or footage in an Event

Apple *iMovie '09* saw the return of many features we thought had been lost when the developers re-engineered the app two years ago. Back when *iMovie HD 6* was all the rage, themes came about as a means to achieve a consistent look between your movie project and the DVD menus you'd be creating in *iDVD*. Now, Apple has lost interest in physical media, preferring digital downloads instead.

iDVD hasn't been updated for years and its themes don't match those of *iMovie '09*. However, this isn't a reason to forgo using the new themes even if you do still rely on discs to distribute your works, since they are a lot of fun to play with and can create a striking project.

Apple hasn't just repackaged the theme idea; it has come up with a whole new interpretation for it. In *iMovie HD 6*, once you'd selected a theme, you had to manually add it to your project, as well as choose from a selection of available options for each. On top of which, each theme had drop zones – sections where you could add your own media to turn a generic introduction into a more personal one – and you had to manually fill them in yourself too. This involved a lot of work.

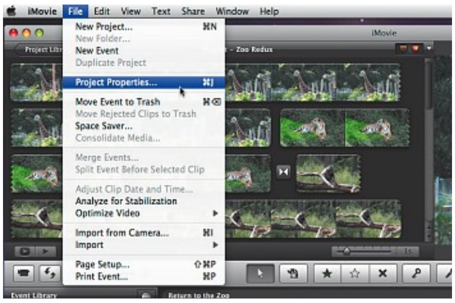
> *"iMovie '09 takes the hassle out of making movies, so beginners can design something that looks great"*

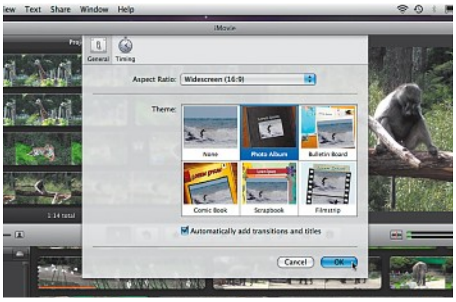
Since *iMovie '09* is designed to take the hassle out of making movies and help complete beginners design something that looks great, the new themes have been created to do it all for you automatically: these let you add an introduction, apply custom transitions and add an end credit without you having to do a thing – aside from choosing the theme you'd like to use, of course.

This doesn't mean to say that you're locked into *iMovie*'s choices. In fact, you have complete control over them should you wish to be more creative, as we will endeavour to show you with this tutorial.

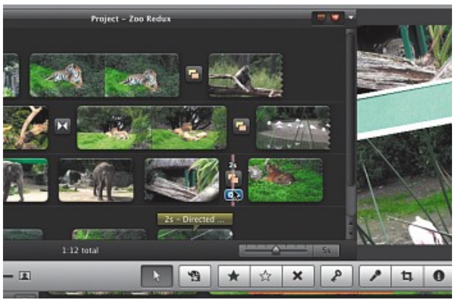
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Create a stunning movie with themes and transitions


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
New Project... ⌘N
New Folder...
New Event
Duplicate Project
Project Properties... ⌘J
Move Event to Trash
Move Rejected Clips to Trash
Space Saver...
Consolidate Media...
Merge Events...
Split Event Before Selected Clip
Adjust Clip Date and Time...
Analyze for Stabilization
Optimize Video
Import from Camera... ⌘I
Import
Page Setup... ⇧⌘P
Print Event... ⌘P
Event Library
Return to the Zoo


Aspect Ratio: Widescreen (16:9)

☑ Automatically add transitions and titles
General
Timing
Theme:
None
Photo Album
Bulletin Board
Comic Book
Scrapbook
Filmstrip
Cancel
OK


Project – Zoo Redux
2s – Directed
1:12 total

01 Accessing themes

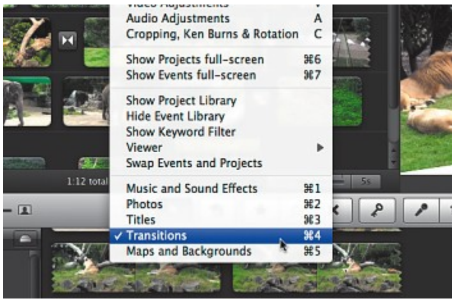
There are two ways of adding a theme to your film: either select it when you create a new project, or add it at a later date. Either way, you have to choose an existing project then go to File > Project Properties, or create a new one (File > New Project).

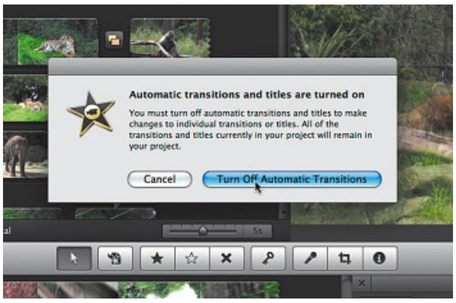
02 Theme selection

The drop-down offers various choices. You can change your project's aspect ratio (you can do this at any time during the process), but the main part of the window is dedicated to choosing a theme. By default, that option is set to **None**. Select one and then click **OK**.

03 The results of your choice

If you've added a theme to an existing project, a custom introduction will be added on top of the first clip(s) as well as a caption at the end. In between, custom transitions have been included. If you're creating a project, those elements appear as you build your film.


Audio Adjustments A
Cropping, Ken Burns & Rotation C
Show Projects full-screen ⌘6
Show Events full-screen ⌘7
Show Project Library
Hide Event Library
Show Keyword Filter
Viewer
Swap Events and Projects
Music and Sound Effects ⌘1
Photos ⌘2
Titles ⌘3
✓ Transitions ⌘4
Maps and Backgrounds ⌘5
1:12 total


Automatic transitions and titles are turned on

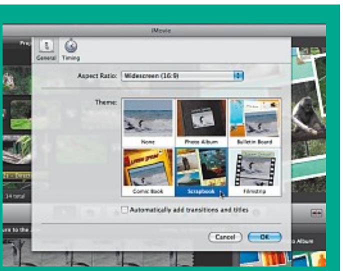
You must turn off automatic transitions and titles to make changes to individual transitions or titles. All of the transitions and titles currently in your project will remain in your project.
Cancel
Turn Off Automatic Transitions

04 The Transitions section

Up to now, Apple's been doing it all for you. If you find this too limiting, let's look at the creative tools. Let's start by revealing the **Transition** section by going to Window > Transitions, pressing ⌘ + 4, or clicking on the toolbar's **Transition** button to the right.

05 Theme-specific transitions

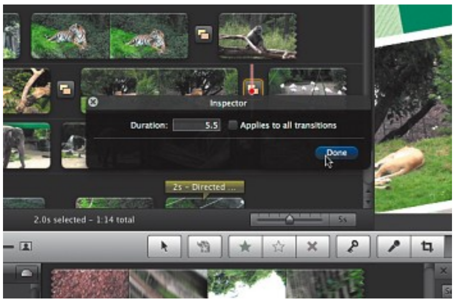
There are four theme-specific transitions just above the regular ones. Mouse over them to see a preview. To add one to your project, drag it to an edit point or over an existing transition. As you do so, confirm your action by disabling the **Automatic Transition** feature.

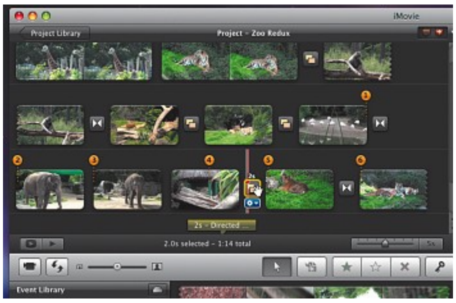

Aspect Ratio: Widescreen (16:9)

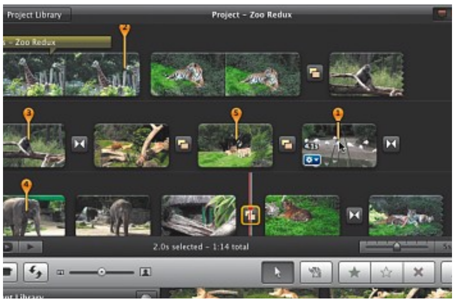
☐ Automatically add transitions and titles
iMovie
General
Timing
Theme:
None
Photo Album
Bulletin Board
Comic Book
Scrapbook
Filmstrip
Cancel
OK

QUICK TIP

If you wish to change themes, go to Edit > Project Properties. All your custom settings (location of theme-specific transitions, duration, choice of thumbnails, etc.) are preserved... unless you choose **None**, in which case all that information is lost.


Duration: 5.5 ☑ Applies to all transitions
Inspector
Done
2s – Directed
2.0s selected – 1:14 total


iMovie
Project Library
Project – Zoo Redux
2s – Directed
2.0s selected – 1:14 total
Event Library


Project Library
Project – Zoo Redux
Zoo Redux
2.0s selected – 1:14 total

06 Customised transitions

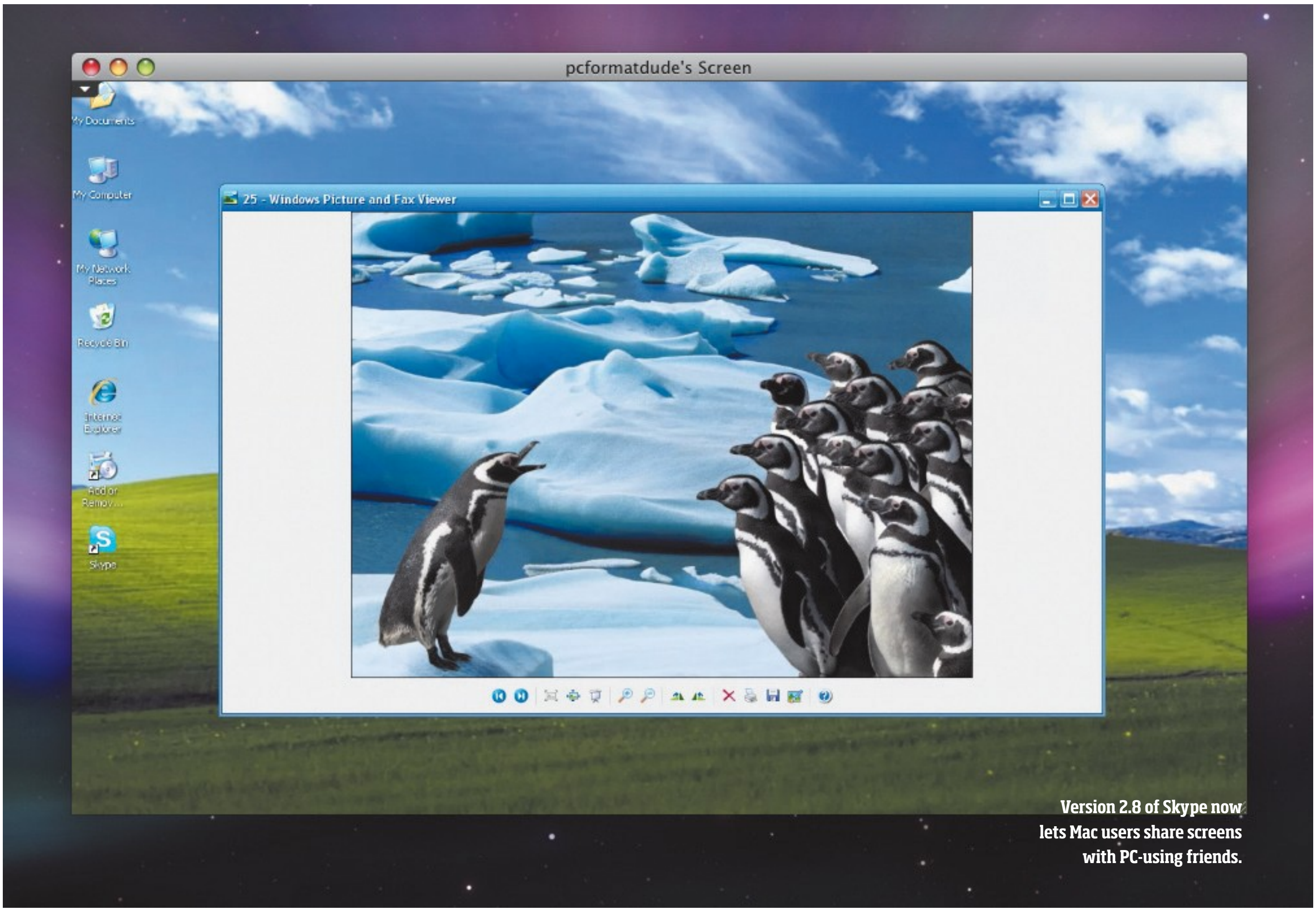
To alter a transition's length, double-click on it. Depending on how much media is available for each clip, you may not be allowed that duration; *iMovie* will create the longest possible one. Tick the **Applies to all transitions** box to apply it throughout your project.

07 The thumbnails

Some theme-specific transitions use parts of your footage as still images peppered throughout the screen. You aren't forced into accepting *iMovie*'s choices in this regard. Click on a transition and notice that your timeline now has little numbered circles throughout.

08 Thumbnail customisation

To choose a different still, drag those yellow circles one at a time to another location in your project. You cannot select a photo from your *iPhoto* library or a video from a different Event: to use a clip as part of your transition, it must already exist in your current project. ●



Version 2.8 of Skype now lets Mac users share screens with PC-using friends.

Share screens with PC users

Use the latest version of Skype to share a Mac Desktop with a PC

»KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Skype 2.8 for Mac, 1GHz CPU, Mac OS X 10.4, broadband, microphone and speakers, webcam for video-chat (video requires Core 2 Duo processor)

»ON THE DISC
You'll find *Skype 2.8* on the disc.

Apple's *iChat* is a terrific piece of software, and the latest version includes some really sophisticated features, such as the ability to share your screen with other Mac users so that they can see your Mac Desktop on their computer.

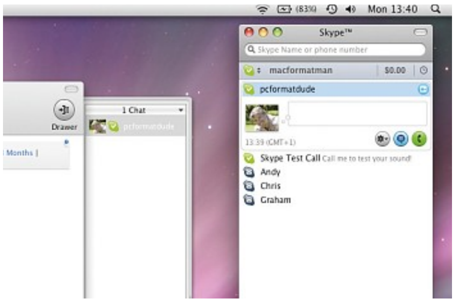
The screen sharing option even allows you to take control of another person's Mac – perhaps to show them how to fix a problem or demonstrate how a new program works. The only problem with *iChat* is that it only runs on Macs. It does provide limited options for chatting with people who are using the PC version of *AIM (AOL Instant Messenger*), but advanced features like screen sharing will only work if both people are using Macs with the latest versions of both *iChat* and OS X. Unfortunately, most of the world is still using PCs with Windows as the OS, so *iChat* isn't much use if you want to communicate with family, friends or colleagues who use a PC.

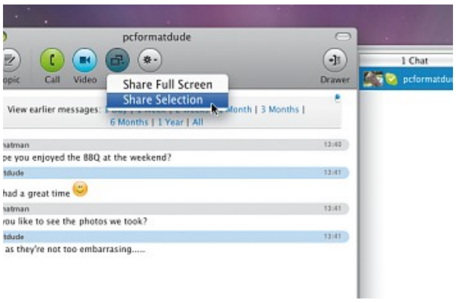
However, *iChat* isn't the only option available to Mac users. *Skype* runs on both Macs and PCs (and there's even a Linux version too) and provides options for text and audio chat, as well as video conferencing and other advanced features that can be used for 'cross-platform' communication between Macs and PCs. The Windows version of *Skype* (currently version 4.1) has had a screen sharing option for a while now, and screen sharing has just been added to version 2.8 of *Skype* for the Mac, allowing us to send images of our Mac screens to PC users and vice versa. Admittedly, *Skype*'s screen sharing isn't quite as sophisticated as *iChat*'s – the main difference being that you can't control the other person's computer as you can with *iChat* running on two Macs. However, it's still useful for tasks such as sharing photos or other information with PC-using friends.

Cliff Joseph

> *"The Windows version of Skype has had a screen sharing option for a while; now it can be done on a Mac too!"*

HOW TO / Sharing screens using Skype


Skype™
Skype Name or phone number
macformatman
$0.00
pcformatdude
Skype Test Call
Andy
Chris
Graham
1 Chat
Drawer

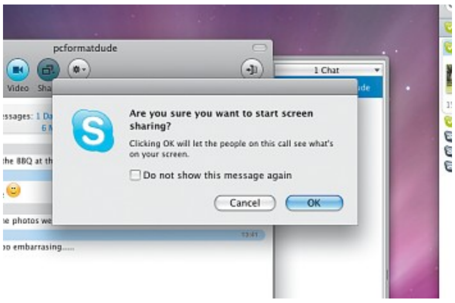

pcformatdude
Call
Video
Share Full Screen
Share Selection
Drawer
1 Chat
pcformatdude
View earlier messages:
3 Months
6 Months | 1 Year | All

pe you enjoyed the BBQ at the weekend?

had a great time

you like to see the photos we took?

as they're not too embarrasing.....


pcformatdude
Video
1 Chat
Cancel
OK

Are you sure you want to start screen sharing?

Clicking OK will let the people on this call see what's on your screen.

☐ Do not show this message again

01 Back chat

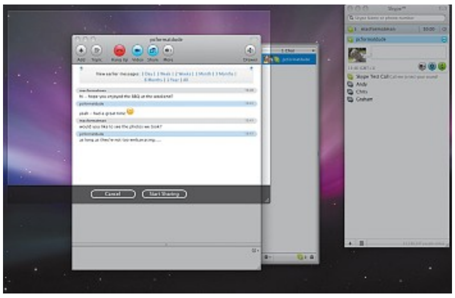
Make sure that both you and your friends have the latest version of *Skype* from **www.skype.com**. Mac users will need *Skype 2.8 for Mac OS X* while PC users will need *Skype 4.1*. Log in and start chatting with your PC friend – we'll start with a simple text chat.

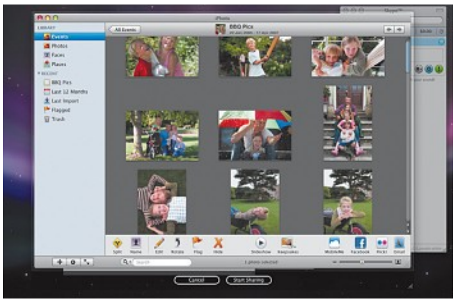
02 Screen sharing

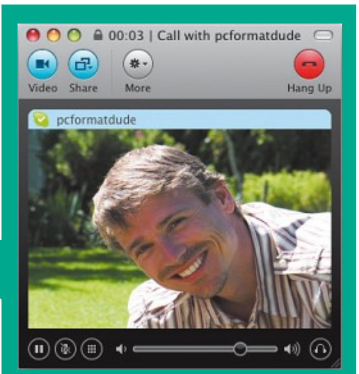
Click on the **Share** button and you'll see two options for sharing your screen. You can either share the entire Mac Desktop or just a selected area on the screen. We'll start off by using the **Share Selection** option to show our friend some photos in *iPhoto*.

03 Security issues

Before you start screen sharing, *Skype* will remind you that you're allowing the other person to see your computer. However, *Skype*'s screen sharing option isn't as sophisticated as that in *iChat*, so the other person can't take control of your Mac as they can with *iChat*.


Cancel
Start Sharing


Cancel
Start Sharing


00:03 | Call with pcformatdude
Video
Share
More
Hang Up
pcformatdude

QUICK TIP

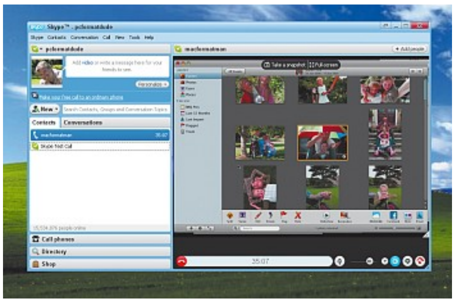
You can screen share while video-chatting with *Skype*, but it's best to stick to one of them unless you have a superfast broadband connection.

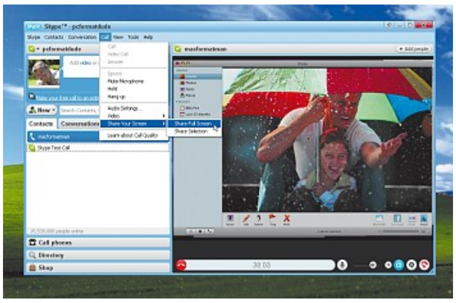
04 Windows on Mac

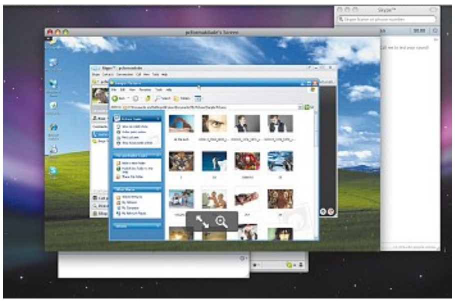
This semi-transparent window appears, indicating the area of the screen that your PC friend will be able to see. You can move the window by clicking and dragging on the grey bar at the bottom, and resize it by using the triangular 'handle' in the bottom-right corner.

05 Photo sharing

Let's open *iPhoto* on our Mac and then resize the **Skype** window so that it covers the entire **iPhoto** window. If you need to, you can still switch between *Skype*, *iPhoto* and any other app by using the ⌘+⇥ shortcut. When you're ready, just click the **Start Sharing** button.







06 Mac on Windows

Over on the PC, our friend can see the contents of the **iPhoto** window inside *Skype*. Notice the full-screen button at the top, which will expand the window to display *iPhoto* at full-screen size on the PC – but only *iPhoto*, and not the rest of your Mac Desktop.

07 Look at me

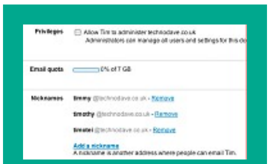
The screen sharing option works both ways. Your friend can activate screen sharing in *Skype*, allowing you to see what's on his PC. However, you can't both share screens at the same time, so your Mac's screen sharing is automatically turned off.

08 Screen machine

If your PC friend chooses **Full Screen**, you will be able to see the entire PC Desktop in a window on your Mac. Notice the little grey control bar in that window, with two buttons that allow you to zoom in on a specific section, or to expand it to fill the your Mac's Desktop. ●

Get your hosting for free

Why not use Google Apps to host from your very own domain name?



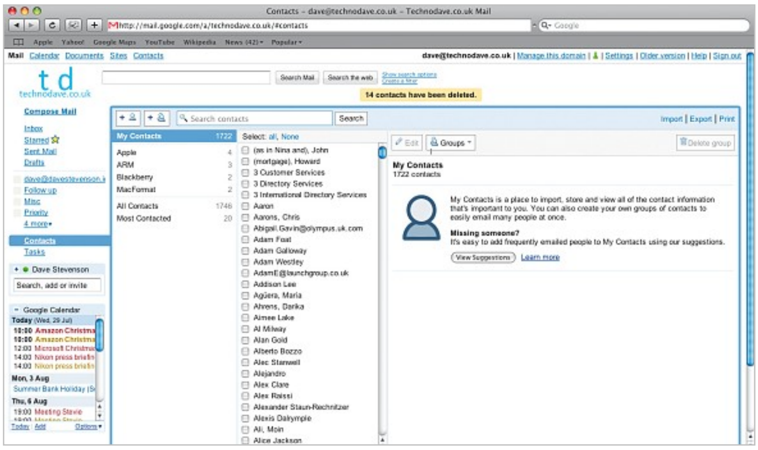
Privileges ☐ Allow Tim to administer technodave.co.uk
Administrators can manage all users and settings for this do
Email quota 0% of 7 GB
Nicknames timmy @technodave.co.uk - Remove
timothy @technodave.co.uk - Remove
timatei @technodave.co.uk - Remove
Add a nickname
A nickname is another address where people can email Tim.

»QUICK TIP

The free version of Google Apps allows you to add up to 50 users, and you get unlimited email addresses. Each user can have nicknames set up for them: so if someone on your team is named Tim, you can add nicknames for Timmy and Timothy to ensure their email arrives.

Ever since Google Mail was released in 2004, its users have been relishing its ease of use, flexibility and the constant stream of updates flowing from Google's top drawer. But if all you're using is a standard @gmail.com email address, you're missing out. Not only does Google offer calendar and contact services, plus document sharing via Google Docs, but you can get the whole lot rolled into one package and run it from your own domain name. So the @gmail.com email suffix is gone for good, replaced with @somethingexciting.com, or whatever you choose. But the best bit is, it's all absolutely free.

The service is called Google Apps Standard Edition. (Google Apps is a paid-for service for businesses.) It's the ability to run it from your own domain name that makes it so appealing. You don't need any hosting: all the web space and processing power is supplied by Google and setting it up is relatively simple – see our walkthrough on p59.



Contacts – dave@technodave.co.uk – Technodave.co.uk Mail
http://mail.google.com/a/technodave.co.uk/#contacts
dave@technodave.co.uk | Manage this domain | Settings | Older version | Help | Sign out
14 contacts have been deleted.

My Contacts	1722
Apple	4
ARM	3
Blackberry	2
MacFormat	2
All Contacts	1746
Most Contacted	20

Select: all, None
☐ (as in Nina and), John
☐ (mortgage), Howard
☐ 3 Customer Services
☐ 3 Directory Services
☐ 3 International Directory Services
☐ Aaron
☐ Aarons, Chris
☐ Abigail.Gavin@olympus.uk.com
☐ Adam Fost
☐ Adam Galloway
☐ Adam Westley
☐ AdamE@launchgroup.co.uk
☐ Addison Lee
☐ Agüera, Maria
☐ Ahrens, Darika
☐ Aimee Lake
☐ Al Milway
☐ Alan Gold
☐ Alberto Bozzo
☐ Alec Stanwell
☐ Alejandro
☐ Alex Clare
☐ Alex Raissi
☐ Alexander Staun-Rechnitzer
☐ Alexis Dalrymple
☐ Ali, Moin
☐ Alice Jackson

My Contacts
1722 contacts

My Contacts is a place to import, store and view all of the contact information that's important to you. You can also create your own groups of contacts to easily email many people at once.

Missing someone?
It's easy to add frequently emailed people to My Contacts using our suggestions.

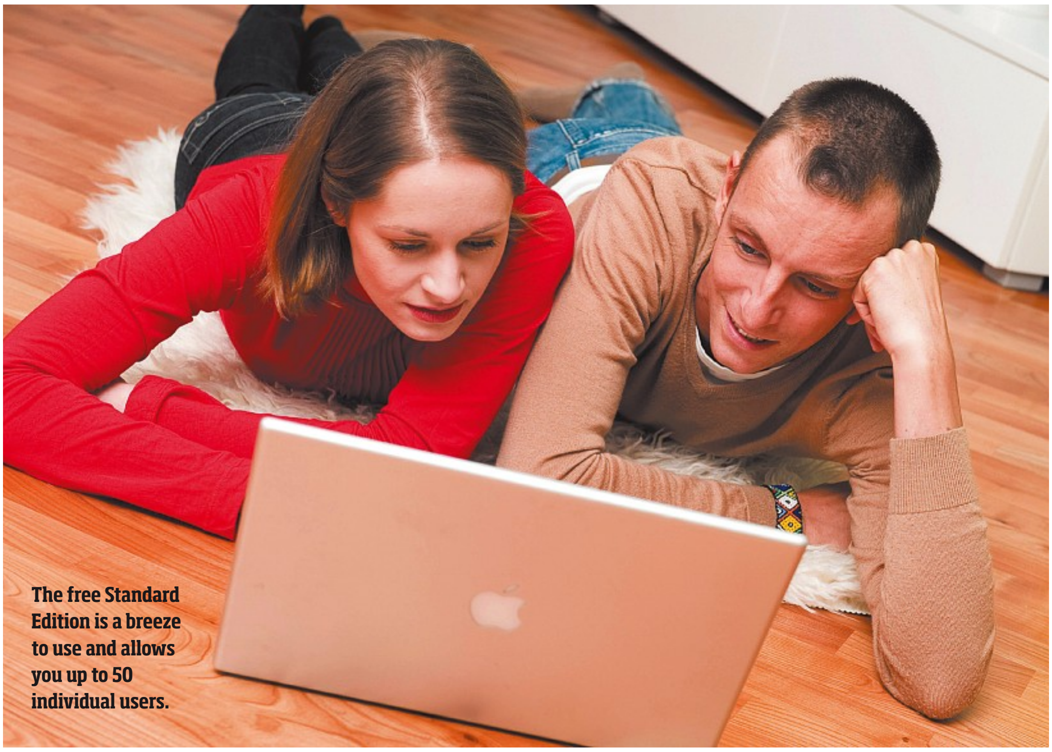
Google will store all of your contacts clearly, confidentially and comprehensively.

All you need to bring is a domain name and a .co.uk address (the latter of which should set you back under a tenner). If you already have a domain name or web hosting, you can migrate over painlessly.

> *"It's the ability to run Google Apps from your own domain name that makes it so appealing"*

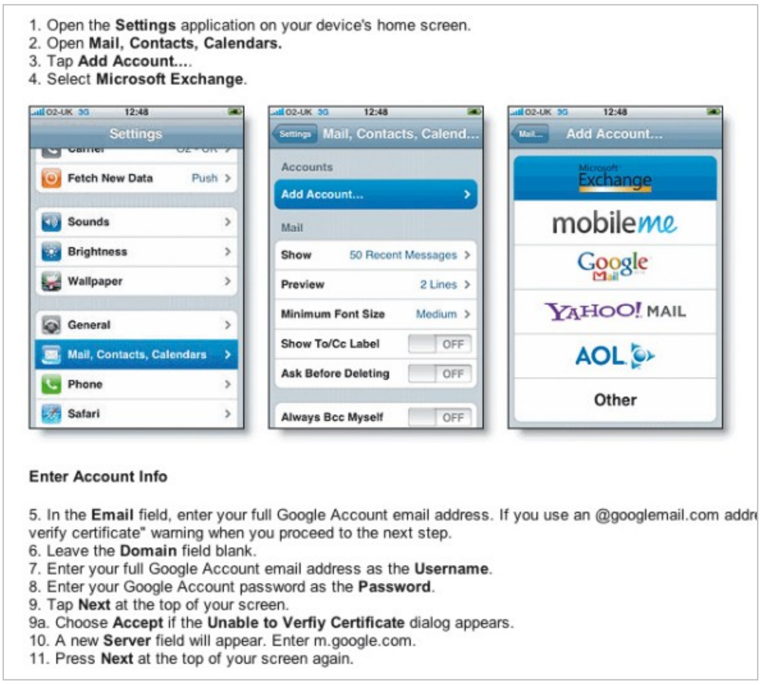
The advantages to using Google Apps SE are huge. All of Google's flagship applications are in there: Gmail, Google Calendar, Contacts and Google Docs. One of the biggest benefits is the ability to use Google Apps with several users. The free Standard Edition allows you up to 50 users, each with their own username, password and email address. Combine that with the way Google Apps brings its applications together and you've got a formidable set of tools. You can open a document from Gmail in Google Docs, for instance, and then share it with other users. You can share calendars and contacts at the click of a button.

And it's not just powerful enough for business: its ease of use makes it perfect for individual users. For instance, organising a major event such as a wedding becomes easier when there's a single calendar available for everyone involved to see. And, managing projects is easier when you've got software designed to aid collaboration – sharing a document online via Google Docs makes more sense than emailing around a document as an attachment, with the resultant mess of dozens of similar-looking but subtly different copies of the same file.



The free Standard Edition is a breeze to use and allows you up to 50 individual users.

WoodyStock / Alamy



1. Open the **Settings** application on your device's home screen.
2. Open **Mail, Contacts, Calendars.**
3. Tap **Add Account...**.
4. Select **Microsoft Exchange**.

O2-UK 3G 12:48
Settings
Fetch New Data Push
Sounds
Brightness
Wallpaper
General
Mail, Contacts, Calendars
Phone
Safari
Settings
Mail, Contacts, Calend...
Accounts
Add Account...
Mail
Show 50 Recent Messages
Preview 2 Lines
Minimum Font Size Medium
Show To/Cc Label OFF
Ask Before Deleting OFF
Always Bcc Myself OFF
Mail...
Add Account...
Microsoft Exchange
mobileme
Google Mail
YAHOO! MAIL
AOL
Other

Enter Account Info

5. In the **Email** field, enter your full Google Account email address. If you use an @googlemail.com addr
verify certificate" warning when you proceed to the next step.
6. Leave the **Domain** field blank.
7. Enter your full Google Account email address as the **Username**.
8. Enter your Google Account password as the **Password**.
9. Tap **Next** at the top of your screen.
9a. Choose **Accept** if the **Unable to Verfiy Certificate** dialog appears.
10. A new **Server** field will appear. Enter m.google.com.
11. Press **Next** at the top of your screen again.

Getting Google Apps on your mobile will involve a little work to set up - but it's worth it.

Google Sites also has the potential to come into its own when you use it with a domain. In isolation it's a way of making underwhelming-looking websites. Under a domain, with a few users, it's a superb way of keeping a group of people informed about a project or event without needing to send out group emails.

Getting it working

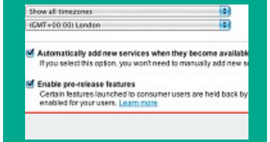
Getting Google Apps to work with your domain requires a small amount of work to make sure your emails are forwarded properly, and that you can use custom URLs such as http://calendar.somethingwonderful.com to access your apps. By default your emails are directed to your domain provider's webmail system. For Gmail, you need to tell your provider to direct your emails elsewhere – effectively you're invisibly re-directing your emails, and ensuring when you write new ones, the return address is shown as your own domain. This is something unavailable in the standalone version of Gmail: you can change your return address, but it often shows up as "from email@customdomain.com, on behalf of Gmail", which isn't quite as polished. We show you how to do this on p59.

There's a commercial version of Google Apps, and you'll see exhortations to join it whenever you log in. It costs $50 (£30) per user per year, and in return you get a guarantee that the service will be active at least 99.9% of the time. The amount of storage you get also goes up: from a little over 7GB for the free version to 25GB. You can also opt for SSL (Secure Socket Layer) encryption for your domain. If you're contemplating buying an email server for a small company it's worth considering, but it's massive overkill for home users. For other paid-for alternatives, including MobileMe, see the box on p58.

> "Once you've got Apps set up and running on your domain, you're met with a forbidding-looking Dashboard..."

How to use it

Once you've got Apps set up and running on your domain, you're met with a forbidding-looking Dashboard for your site. The Help button is never far, though. It's through this Dashboard that you control everything Google Apps does. It's also where you can set up and edit your users' accounts. So click on Email, for instance, and you can alter the URL that users type in to access inboxes, and determine what happens to emails that arrive at your domain with an unknown prefix.



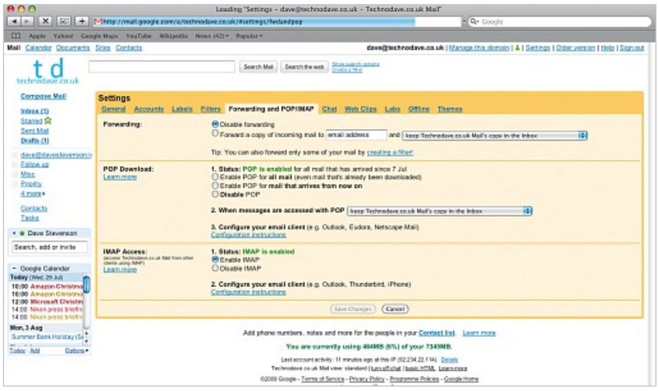
Show all timezones
(GMT+00:00) London

☑ Automatically add new services when they become availabl
If you select this option, you won't need to manually add new s

☑ Enable pre-release features
Certain features launched to consumer users are held back by
enabled for your users. Learn more

»QUICK TIP

Unless you're a corporate user or need multi-language support, go to **Domain** settings in your **Dashboard** and click the checkbox next to **Enable pre-release features**. Google Apps is constantly changing, and enabling this means you get early access to new features as they're added.



Loading "Settings – dave@technodave.co.uk – Technodave.co.uk Mail"
http://mail.google.com/a/technodave.co.uk/#settings/fwdandpop
Mail Calendar Documents Sites Contacts
dave@technodave.co.uk | Manage this domain | Settings | Older version | Help | Sign out
Search Mail
Search the web
Compose Mail
Inbox (1)
Starred
Sent Mail
Drafts (1)
Contacts
Tasks
Dave Stevenson
Google Calendar
Settings
General Accounts Labels Filters Forwarding and POP/IMAP Chat Web Clips Labs Offline Themes
Save Changes
Cancel

Forwarding:
● Disable forwarding
○ Forward a copy of incoming mail to email address and keep Technodave.co.uk Mail's copy in the Inbox
Tip: You can also forward only some of your mail by creating a filter!

POP Download:
1. Status: POP is enabled for all mail that has arrived since 7 Jul
○ Enable POP for all mail (even mail that's already been downloaded)
○ Enable POP for mail that arrives from now on
○ Disable POP
2. When messages are accessed with POP keep Technodave.co.uk Mail's copy in the Inbox
3. Configure your email client (e.g. Outlook, Eudora, Netscape Mail)
Configuration instructions

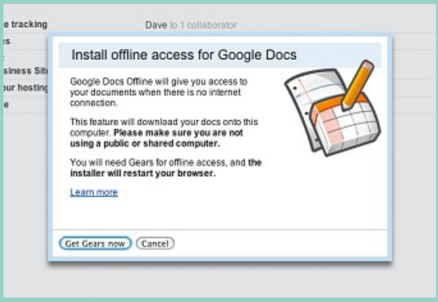
IMAP Access:
1. Status: IMAP is enabled
● Enable IMAP
○ Disable IMAP
2. Configure your email client (e.g. Outlook, Thunderbird, iPhone)
Configuration instructions

Go to your Gmail settings to set up email on your mobile phone.

» HOW TO / Keep working when you're offline

So what happens when your internet connection goes down, or you want to access your email or Google Docs from somewhere where there's no web connection? Will you be stranded until you get a signal? Google Gears now comes to the rescue. It's a small add-on for browsers (*Safari, Firefox* and *Google Chrome* are supported) that allows certain online applications to work offline. For instance, Gmail downloads your email to your computer, allowing you to search, read and write replies while you're disconnected. Any emails you write are sent when you next log in. Also, Google Docs will download your documents, and syncs offline changes to the server the next time you connect. It works seamlessly and is a big help to anyone who doesn't use a third-party email client to get their email.

Getting it to work couldn't be simpler: all you have to do is click **Available offline** (Calendar), **Enable Offline Mail**, or, in Google Docs, the **Offline** link near the top right-hand corner.



e tracking
Dave to 1 collaborator
Get Gears now
Cancel

Install offline access for Google Docs

Google Docs Offline will give you access to your documents when there is no internet connection.

This feature will download your docs onto this computer. **Please make sure you are not using a public or shared computer.**

You will need Gears for offline access, and **the installer will restart your browser.**

Learn more

Downloading can take a while, depending on how full your inbox or calendar is, but it's a small price to pay for accessing your online services when your internet connection refuses to play ball.

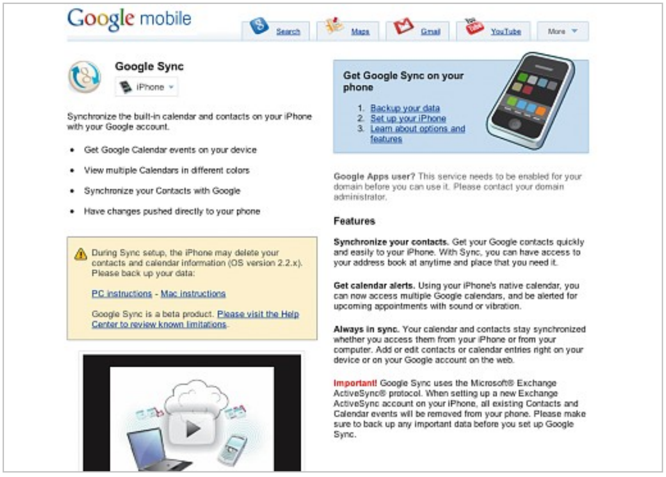
Offline access is incredibly handy if your internet goes down.

Google
Google Apps Admin Help
Help topics
Deployment Guides

>> QUICK TIP

Never underestimate the value of Google's community support forums. Go to **Support** in the **Dashboard** and click **Community Forum**. It's more than likely that any problems you come across will have been solved already.

Keep your phone and Google account synchronised.



Google Sync

Synchronize the built-in calendar and contacts on your iPhone with your Google account.

- Get Google Calendar events on your device
- View multiple Calendars in different colors
- Synchronize your Contacts with Google
- Have changes pushed directly to your phone

During Sync setup, the iPhone may delete your contacts and calendar information (OS version 2.2.x). Please back up your data:

PC instructions - Mac instructions

Google Sync is a beta product. Please visit the Help Center to review known limitations.

Get Google Sync on your phone

1. Backup your data
2. Set up your iPhone
3. Learn about options and features

Google Apps user? This service needs to be enabled for your domain before you can use it. Please contact your domain administrator.

Features

Synchronize your contacts. Get your Google contacts quickly and easily to your iPhone. With Sync, you can have access to your address book at anytime and place that you need it.

Get calendar alerts. Using your iPhone's native calendar, you can now access multiple Google calendars, and be alerted for upcoming appointments with sound or vibration.

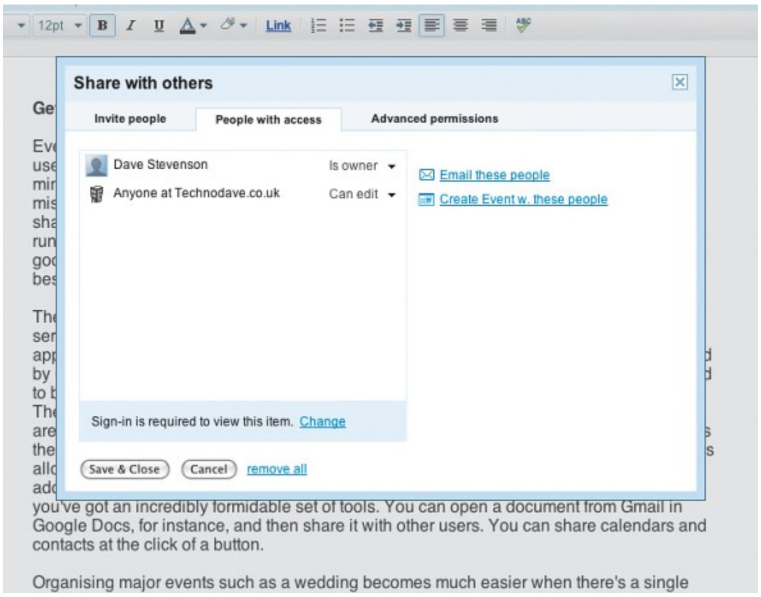
Always in sync. Your calendar and contacts stay synchronized whether you access them from your iPhone or from your computer. Add or edit contacts or calendar entries right on your device or on your Google account on the web.

Important! Google Sync uses the Microsoft® Exchange ActiveSync® protocol. When setting up a new Exchange ActiveSync account on your iPhone, all existing Contacts and Calendar events will be removed from your phone. Please make sure to back up any important data before you set up Google Sync.

The **Dashboard** is the only unfamiliar bit of the service. If you've ever used any of the services provided by Google Apps (Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Contacts or Sites, plus Google Talk), you'll notice that the Apps versions look and work exactly the same. You'll be right at home, with a far more powerful set of tools hiding in the background.

Sharing

One of the most useful aspects of using Google Apps Standard Edition with a group of people is the ability to control how information is shared. It might be useful, for instance, to allow people to share a document relating to a project, but the last thing you want is a user accidentally sharing it with the wider world. You can control document sharing without Google Apps, but the **Dashboard** allows you far tighter control. Click on **Service settings** on the menu bar at the top of the **Dashboard**, and choose the app you want to set up for sharing: Docs is a good example. You can allow your users to share Docs with each other, but they can also set up Docs to be viewed by users from outside your domain. You have three levels of control. At your most restrictive, you can prevent users sharing anything with anyone who is not a member of your domain, and you can even prevent them using Google Docs to view documents sent by outsiders. Alternatively, you can allow users to share documents with outside users, with the option to warn them each time they do. Similar tools exist for sharing calendars. Your users can set their own sharing preferences within the regime you set up.



Dave Stevenson — Is owner

Anyone at Technodave.co.uk — Can edit

Sign-in is required to view this item. Change

you've got an incredibly formidable set of tools. You can open a document from Gmail in Google Docs, for instance, and then share it with other users. You can share calendars and contacts at the click of a button.

Organising major events such as a wedding becomes much easier when there's a single

Share your documents easily but remember to control who you send them to.

> *"One of the features that really drops jaws is the ability to get it onto any handheld device"*

Take it with you

One of the features that really drops our collective jaws – in particular because it's free – is the ability to get Google Apps onto virtually any handheld device.

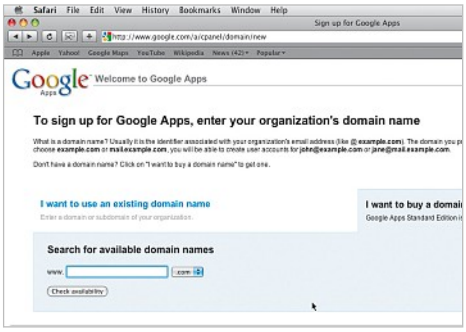
It's possible to download standalone applications from Google that access your Google Apps domain, but by far the best way to do it is to integrate your Google data – emails, calendar appointments and contacts – with the apps already on your phone. This is particularly true of the iPhone, which doesn't allow you to run apps in the background. Setting up mobile access with Google Apps isn't entirely straightforward, though. You set up email separately from calendar and contacts, for instance. Go to the **Settings** menu in your email, and then click **Forwarding** and **POP/IMAP**. Our preference of the two is IMAP, which behaves more like a classic mail server by leaving messages in your online inbox and synchronising your phone. Follow the instructions on the screen, then

>> HOW TO / Get what you pay for

Google sets the bar high when it comes to online applications. Its Apps suite is free, flexible and a sensible choice for businesses. So why would you look anywhere else? Well, there's no denying that its mobile credentials, while good for those prepared to put in a little work, pale in comparison to MobileMe. MobileMe is easy to set up; it offers a raft of features designed specifically to work with the iPhone. There's no need, as with Google Apps, to set up a Microsoft Exchange account for your calendar and contacts, and an IMAP account for your email. MobileMe also provides apps unique to the iPhone, such as the ability to find your device if it gets lost or send a remote "kill" signal if you decide it's irretrievable. And, while it's possible to use Gmail's 7GB of email space for file storage, it requires a third-party plug-in. MobileMe supplies 20GB of storage up front. Also, Google's Sites only allows you to put together basic web pages. Services such as 1&1's new MyBusiness Site (£9.99 per month before VAT) are more flexible. However, Google Apps remains compelling, not least because the cheapest MobileMe option costs £59 a year and Apps is free. Plus, only Google Apps allows you to send email from your own domain.

Tick all the keywords that apply to the shots you're looking for.

HOW TO / Install Google Apps on your domain for free


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help
Sign up for Google Apps
http://www.google.com/a/cpanel/domain/new
Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (42) Popular
Google Apps
Welcome to Google Apps
Check availability

To sign up for Google Apps, enter your organization's domain name

What is a domain name? Usually it is the identifier associated with your organization's email address (like @**example.com**). The domain you p choose **example.com** or **mail.example.com**, you will be able to create user accounts for **john@example.com** or **jane@mail.example.com**.

Don't have a domain name? Click on "I want to buy a domain name" to get one.

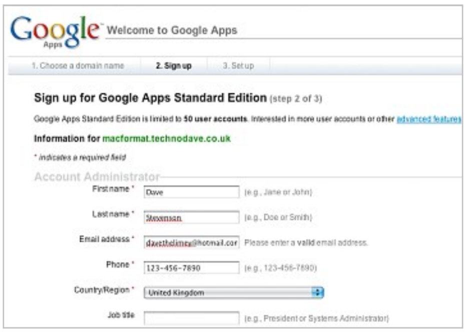
I want to use an existing domain name
Enter a domain or subdomain of your organization.

I want to buy a domai
Google Apps Standard Edition i

Search for available domain names
www. .com

01 Buy a domain

Google has teamed up with US hosting company GoDaddy. Go to **www.google.com/a** and click **Explore Standard Edition**. Click **I want to buy a domain name**. .com domains cost £6. GoDaddy sells .co.uk domains, but not via Google


Google Apps
Welcome to Google Apps
1. Choose a domain name
2. Sign up
3. Set up

Sign up for Google Apps Standard Edition (step 2 of 3)

Google Apps Standard Edition is limited to **50 user accounts**. Interested in more user accounts or other advanced features

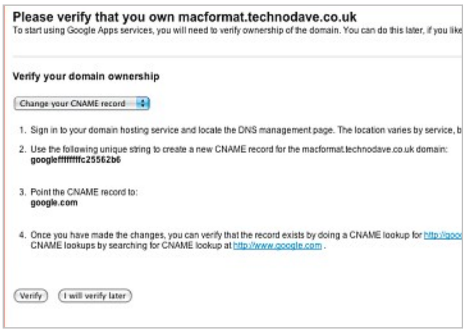
Information for macformat.technodave.co.uk

* indicates a required field

Account Administrator
First name * Dave (e.g., Jane or John)
Last name * Stevenson (e.g., Doe or Smith)
Email address * davethelimey@hotmail.cor Please enter a valid email address.
Phone * 123-456-7890 (e.g., 123-456-7890)
Country/Region * United Kingdom
Job title (e.g., President or Systems Administrator)

02 Sign up for Google Apps

Fill in your new account details, noting that you need to enter an email address not associated with your domain. This is where a fallback address is handy. Two screens on you'll be looking at your Google Apps **Dashboard**.


Change your CNAME record
Verify
I will verify later

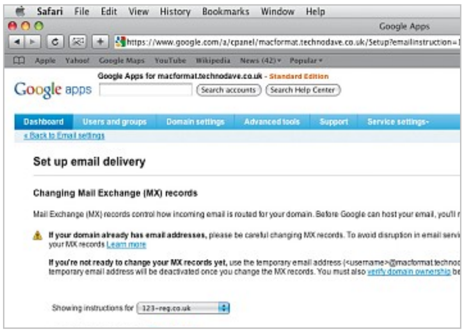
Please verify that you own macformat.technodave.co.uk
To start using Google Apps services, you will need to verify ownership of the domain. You can do this later, if you like

Verify your domain ownership

1. Sign in to your domain hosting service and locate the DNS management page. The location varies by service, b
2. Use the following unique string to create a new CNAME record for the macformat.technodave.co.uk domain: **googleffffffffc25562b6**
3. Point the CNAME record to: **google.com**
4. Once you have made the changes, you can verify that the record exists by doing a CNAME lookup for http://goo CNAME lookups by searching for CNAME lookup at http://www.google.com .

03 Verify your domain

You have seven days to prove your domain belongs to you. If you have web hosting, upload an HTML file. Otherwise, copy and paste a string of characters into a CNAME record (found under DNS Settings for most domain providers).


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help
Google Apps
https://www.google.com/a/cpanel/macformat.technodave.co.uk/Setup?emailinstruction=
Apple Yahoo! Google Maps YouTube Wikipedia News (42) Popular
Google apps
Search accounts
Search Help Center
Dashboard
Users and groups
Domain settings
Advanced tools
Support
Service settings
« Back to Email settings

Google Apps for macformat.technodave.co.uk - Standard Edition

Set up email delivery

Changing Mail Exchange (MX) records

Mail Exchange (MX) records control how incoming email is routed for your domain. Before Google can host your email, you'll r

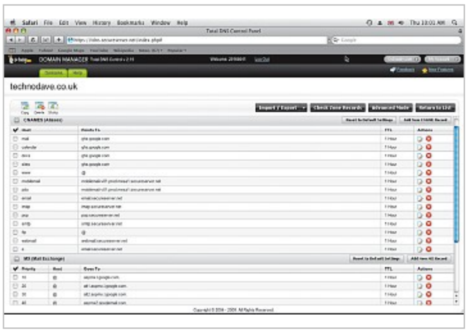
If your domain already has email addresses, please be careful changing MX records. To avoid disruption in email servi your MX records Learn more

If you're not ready to change your MX records yet, use the temporary email address (<username>@macformat.technod temporary email address will be deactivated once you change the MX records. You must also verify domain ownership be

Showing instructions for 123-reg.co.uk

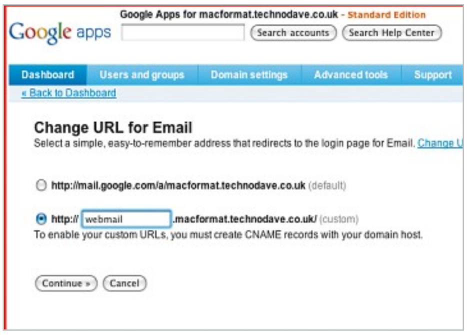
04 Activate email

While you're in the domain provider's DNS settings page. Click **Activate Email** on the **Dashboard**. Find your domain provider in the list. Enter the settings listed into the DNS settings page of your domain provider.


technodave.co.uk

05 Have patience

Changing your DNS settings with your hosting provider can take a while. Setting up Gmail on a new domain takes a day or two to get going. Don't give out your email address until it's working, and don't harass your domain provider!


Google apps
Search accounts
Search Help Center
Dashboard
Users and groups
Domain settings
Advanced tools
Support
« Back to Dashboard
Continue »
Cancel

Google Apps for macformat.technodave.co.uk - Standard Edition

Change URL for Email
Select a simple, easy-to-remember address that redirects to the login page for Email. Change U

○ http://mail.google.com/a/macformat.technodave.co.uk (default)
● http:// webmail .macformat.technodave.co.uk/ (custom)
To enable your custom URLs, you must create CNAME records with your domain host.

06 Create custom URLs

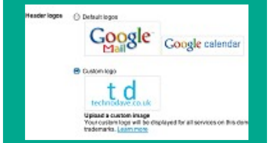
Click on a service in the **Dashboard** and **Change URL**. Choose the second box and type your new name. Go to the DNS page of your domain provider, put in the new name and address into the CNAME value and address boxes.

click **Configuration Instructions** for precise direction as to which settings to enter into your phone's mail client. Just remember that when setting anything up on your mobile that your username is your full email address at your domain.

Setting up your calendar and contacts is slightly more involved. First, head to your new **Dashboard** (a handy bookmark to make is **www.google.com/a/yourdomainhere.com**, which is where your **Dashboard** lives), click **Service Settings** on the menu bar, then **Mobile**. Ignore the **Access Google Apps** link at the top – we want our appointments and contacts synced straight into the phone. Click the checkbox next to **Enable Google Sync**. Google Sync uses Microsoft's ActiveSync to keep your phone and Google account synchronised, so you need to add a new Microsoft *Exchange* account. On the iPhone this is supported out of the box, and the same goes for Windows Mobile devices. Symbian (the operating system found on Nokias) is also supported, although you need to download a separate application to make it work. Enter your Google Apps email address as your username and your password as normal. Then enter **m.google.com** as the server and remember you only want to sync your mail and calendar entries. Once you're done, your contacts and calendar entries will be synced. This is only the start, though: any changes or new entries you make on your phone will be reflected when you access your calendar or contacts on your PC and vice versa. It's incredibly powerful, to say nothing of handy for those who spend a lot of time on the move.

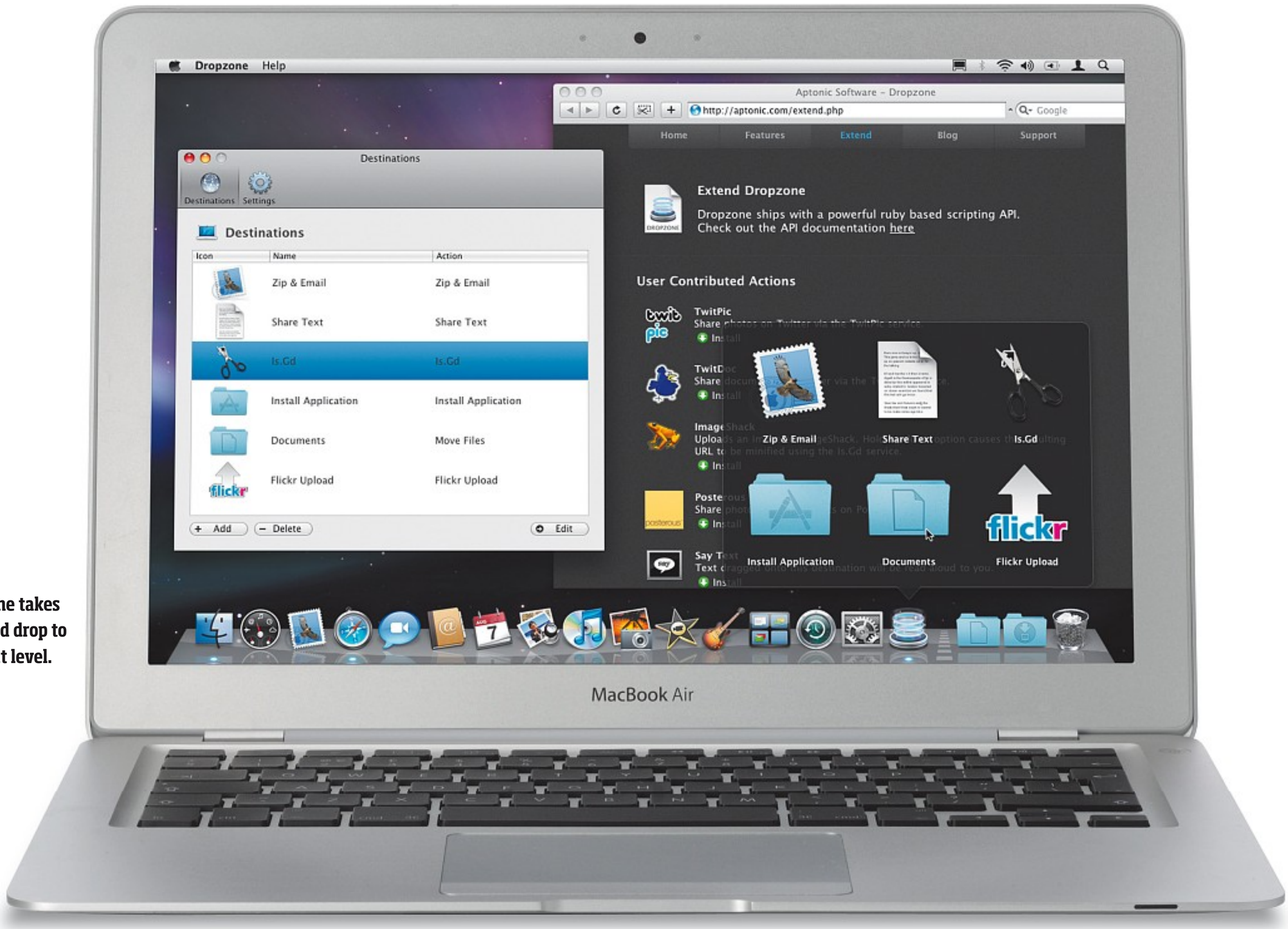
Dave Stevenson

> *"It's incredibly powerful, to say nothing of handy for those who spend a lot of time on the move..."*


Header logos
Default logo
Google Mail
Google calendar
Custom logo
t d
technodave.co.uk
Upload a custom image

QUICK TIP

Add branding by going to **Domain settings**, then **Appearance** in the **Dashboard**. Upload a PNG or GIF file of 143 x 59 pixels and enter the values for border and background colours.



Destinations

Icon	Name	Action
	Zip & Email	Zip & Email
	Share Text	Share Text
	Is.Gd	Is.Gd
	Install Application	Install Application
	Documents	Move Files
flickr	Flickr Upload	Flickr Upload

Extend Dropzone

Dropzone ships with a powerful ruby based scripting API. Check out the API documentation here

User Contributed Actions

Dropzone takes drag and drop to the next level.

Upload images in a flash

Use Dropzone to file and upload documents with drag and drop ease

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Dropzone (on the disc), Mac OS X 10.5, some images to move, a free Flickr account

>> ON THE DISC

Find the trial of *Dropzone* on the disc.

Drag and drop has always underpinned the Mac OS workflow. From the very start, Apple embraced the idea of tactile interface components, enabling you to drag documents and folders around a virtual Desktop, and to easily move content between applications. *Dropzone* takes this idea and runs with it, providing a centralised Dock-based location for all manner of destination-based drags. With it, you can set local and remote destinations for files, thereby enabling you to remove folder shortcuts from your Dock, and be less reliant on standalone clients for basic uploads.

Usefully, rather than offer a closed feature set, *Dropzone* also happens to be extensible, shipping with a documented Ruby-based scripting API. If you're well-versed in the programming language, you could feasibly create your own actions, but there are also plenty of script gurus out there doing this for you. At the time of writing, available extensions for *Dropzone* enable you to upload images to TwitPic and ImageShack, share documents on Posterous and TwitDoc, print dropped files, start your screensaver, switch the Desktop background, and more.

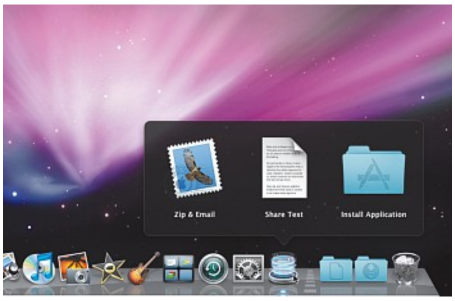
> *"Dropzone takes the idea of dragging files and folders around a virtual Desktop and runs with it"*

In our tutorial, we show you how to get started with the app, creating a folder-based destination, generating a Flickr action and adding an action for turning standard URLs into is.gd shortcuts. Note that *Dropzone* enables you to build multiple instances of the more generic actions, so you can have shortcuts to various local folders and FTP servers.

Once you've worked through the tutorial, try setting up your own actions, and you'll soon find *Dropzone* makes moving documents simple. The trial version is on your disc, and more information is at http://aptonic.com.

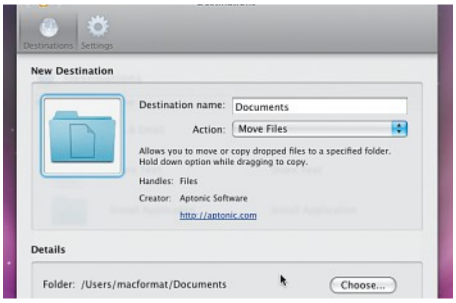
Craig Grannell

HOW TO / Drag and drop files with Dropzone


Zip & Email
Share Text
Install Application

01 Get started

Clicking on *Dropzone*'s icon in the Dock or dragging an item to it reveals a **Stacks**-like actions grid. **Zip & Email** archives your item and sends it to *Mail*. **Save Text** saves a dragged text snippet. **Install Application** mounts a DMG, installs the app and then trashes the DMG.


Destinations
Settings

New Destination

Destination name: Documents

Action: Move Files

Allows you to move or copy dropped files to a specified folder. Hold down option while dragging to copy.

Handles: Files

Creator: Aptonic Software

http://aptonic.com

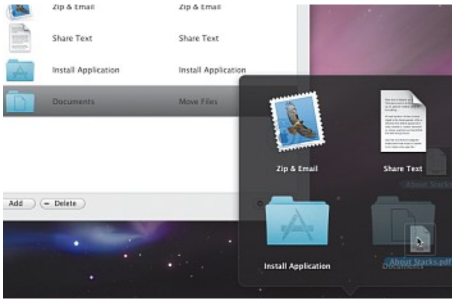
Details

Folder: /Users/macformat/Documents

Choose...

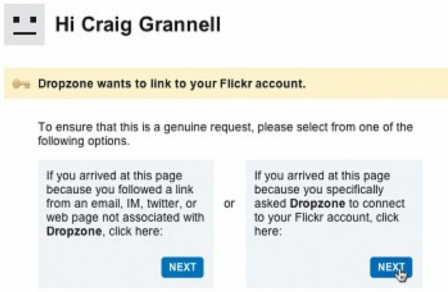
02 Add an action

Open preferences (Dropzone > Preferences or ⌘+,) and select **Destinations**. Click **Add** and the **Actions** menu. You'll see a list of possible actions you can add. Select **Move Files**, click **Choose**, select your **Documents** folder in the subsequent sheet, and click **Open**.


Zip & Email
Share Text
Install Application
Documents
Move Files
Add
Delete
Zip & Email
Share Text
Install Application

03 Use the action

You can change your action's name by typing in the **Destination Name** field, or change the icon by dragging a new image to the icon well. Once you're happy, click **Add**. Drop a *Finder* item on the action in *Dropzone*'s grid and it'll be moved to your **Documents** folder.



Hi Craig Grannell

Dropzone wants to link to your Flickr account.

To ensure that this is a genuine request, please select from one of the following options.

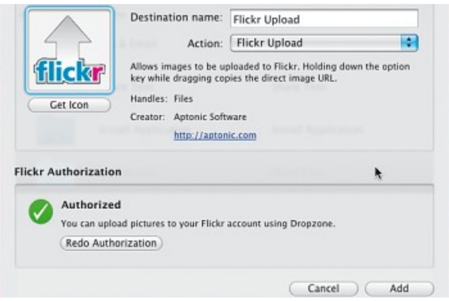
If you arrived at this page because you followed a link from an email, IM, twitter, or web page not associated with **Dropzone**, click here:

or

If you arrived at this page because you specifically asked **Dropzone** to connect to your Flickr account, click here:

04 Flickr destination

If you have a Flickr account, select **Flickr Upload** from the **Action** menu, and then click the **Authorize** button. Flickr will load in your web browser. Click **Next** in the right-hand box and **OK** on the next page. Back in *Dropzone*, click **Finish Authorization**.



Destination name: Flickr Upload

Action: Flickr Upload

Allows images to be uploaded to Flickr. Holding down the option key while dragging copies the direct image URL.

Handles: Files

Creator: Aptonic Software

http://aptonic.com

Flickr Authorization

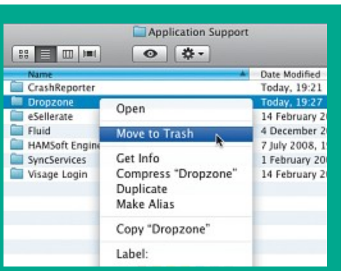
Authorized

You can upload pictures to your Flickr account using Dropzone.

Get Icon
Redo Authorization
Cancel
Add

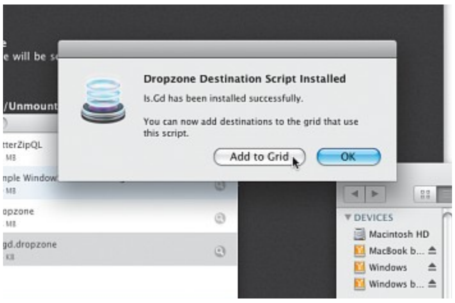
05 Upload to Flickr

If the icon well remains blank, click **Get Icon** to load the Flickr icon and click **Add**. You can now drag images to the grid's **Flickr Upload** action. *Dropzone* processes and uploads your image and puts its web page location on the clipboard, ready for pasting elsewhere.


Application Support
Name
Date Modified
CrashReporter
Dropzone
eSellerate
Fluid
HAMSoft Engine
SyncServices
Visage Login
Open
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "Dropzone"
Duplicate
Make Alias
Copy "Dropzone"
Label:

QUICK TIP

In rare circumstances, *Dropzone* might freeze up after you first add new scripts. If that happens, quit *Dropzone*, trash ~/Library/Application Support/Dropzone and reinstall any scripts you'd installed. On restarting, all should be well.



Dropzone Destination Script Installed

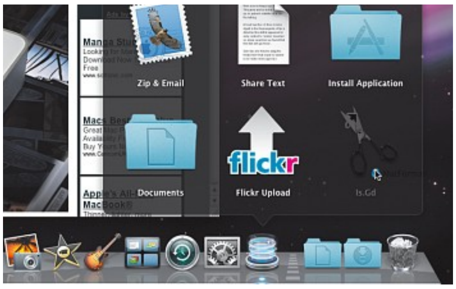
Is.Gd has been installed successfully.

You can now add destinations to the grid that use this script.

Add to Grid
OK
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
MacBook b...
Windows
Windows b...

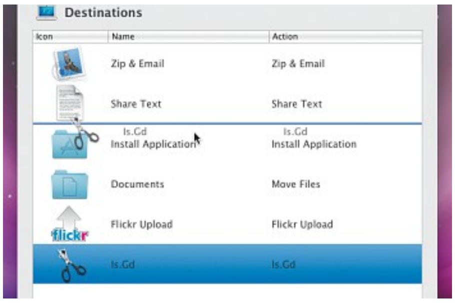
06 Extend Dropzone

Select **More actions**... and you'll be taken to **http://aptonic.com/extend.php**. Here, you can download *Dropzone* extensions. Click the install link under **Is.Gd**. In your **Downloads** folder, double-click **is.gd.dropzone** then **Open** in the dialog. Click **Add to Grid**.


Zip & Email
Share Text
Install Application
Documents
Flickr Upload
Is.Gd

07 Use the new shortcut

You should see the **New Destination** sheet, with the **Is.Gd** icon, name and action. Open a website in *Safari* and drag the favicon (the icon next to its address) to **Is.Gd** in *Dropzone*'s grid. A short version of the link will be sent to your clipboard – great for sending to friends!



Destinations

Icon	Name	Action
	Zip & Email	Zip & Email
	Share Text	Share Text
	Is.Gd Install Application	Is.Gd Install Application
	Documents	Move Files
	Flickr Upload	Flickr Upload
	Is.Gd	Is.Gd

08 Edit your actions

To edit actions, re-open the **Destinations** tab in *Dropzone*'s preferences. Select an action, click **Edit**, make your changes and click **Update**. Select an item and click **Delete** to remove it (note: there is no undo), and drag actions to change their sort order in *Dropzone*'s grid. ●

>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Get faster internet

Christopher Brennan speeds up the information highway

>> PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x 2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

Keeping up with the latest technologies is an expensive task. The advantages of being an early adopter are actually few and far between. However, there is something in my psyche that turns off the 'but you don't need it' sentiments when faced with a purchasing decision. So, when a leaflet dropped through the letterbox advertising a 50 megabit broadband service recently, I just couldn't help myself.

Sadly, it's not a case of just turning up the volume; an engineer had to come and install some new hardware in the box attached to the wall outside my house. When that was done he flicked a switch and, hey presto, my internet connection was super-fast. Downloading movies on my Apple TV was so much faster I wondered how I had ever coped without it.

Recommendations

When a friend asked me if it was worth paying the extra for the 50Mb line, I was wholehearted in my recommendation. So when he called me a week or so later, I asked what he thought and I was surprised to find out he was a little disappointed. How was this possible? Even going from a 20Mb line the step up in speed is noticeable.

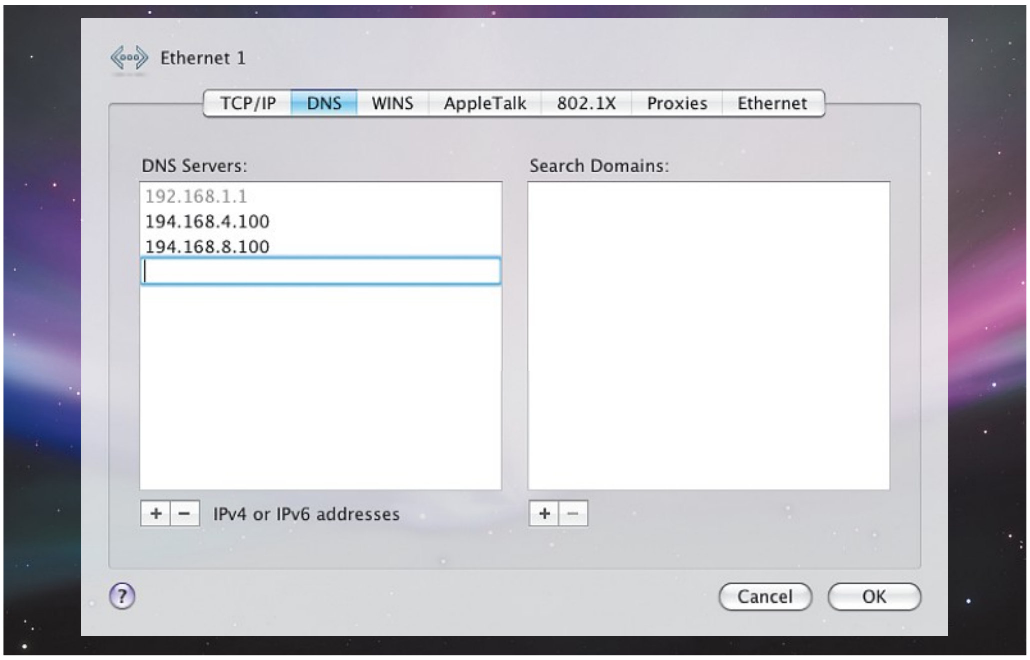
The problem he seemed to be having was getting going. There would be a seemingly interminable wait before the page loaded, as if someone was standing on the pipe and then gently letting their foot off for the data to trickle through. I quickly ruled out anyone standing on the pipe as that's just silly, and, besides, the cable is under the ground. The first test was to check the ISP's website to see if there are any status issues or reported problems, but there was nothing they were aware of that could be causing this behaviour.

> *"There is something in my psyche that turns off the 'but you don't need it' sentiments when faced with a purchasing decision"*

He checked System Preferences > Network to make sure that he was getting an IP address using DHCP. To finish the troubleshooting regimen he restarted his router and his Mac. Still his browser was slow off the mark. A little bit of chin-scratching followed, at which point my wife arrived home from work and asked me who I was making scratching and humming noises to down the phone.

I explained the issue and, without hesitation, she said DNS. Of course! The Domain Name System is a fairly complicated business, but in short there are two components. The first is the nameserver, which looks for the web address and a resolver which is on your machine. Normally the DNS codes would be added automatically, but this isn't always the case. Without them your Mac will pause as each and every connection is done the long way round.

Adding DNS servers to your network setup helps your Mac get to internet sites quickly. Click on the + symbol to add them.



DNS Servers:
192.168.1.1
194.168.4.100
194.168.8.100

The solution

To fix the problem you'll need to find the DNS servers for your ISP; a Google search can usually find these, or call your ISP. They'll be in the format xx.xx.xx.xxx. To add the DNS servers to your Mac, go to *System Preferences* and click on **Network**. Click on the **Advanced** button and then on the **DNS** tab. Add your DNS server by clicking on the + symbol. Any slow loading or stuttering should now be a thing of the past.

With the correct DNS settings, my friend was now enjoying the full super-fast broadband experience I had enthused about. Of course, it is only fair that I take the credit for this breakthrough, and as long as the wife and my friend never find out I'm in the clear. ●

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Locate your free disk space

DaisyDisk is a great way of finding out what's eating your hard-disk space

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: DaisyDisk, Mac OS X 10.5

ON THE DISC
Find the trial of DaisyDisk on the disc

When you've had your Mac for a while, the chances are you've used up a considerable amount of your hard drive's free space, especially if you've got a lot of photos, music and video files. To find out, right-click on the Macintosh HD icon on your Desktop and select Get Info (or click it once and hit ⌘+I). If the figure beside Available is getting pretty close to the one alongside Capacity then you're in need of *DaisyDisk*. It's a great tool for visualising what's taking up all that free space, so you can delete files you no longer need. Here we'll show you how it works.

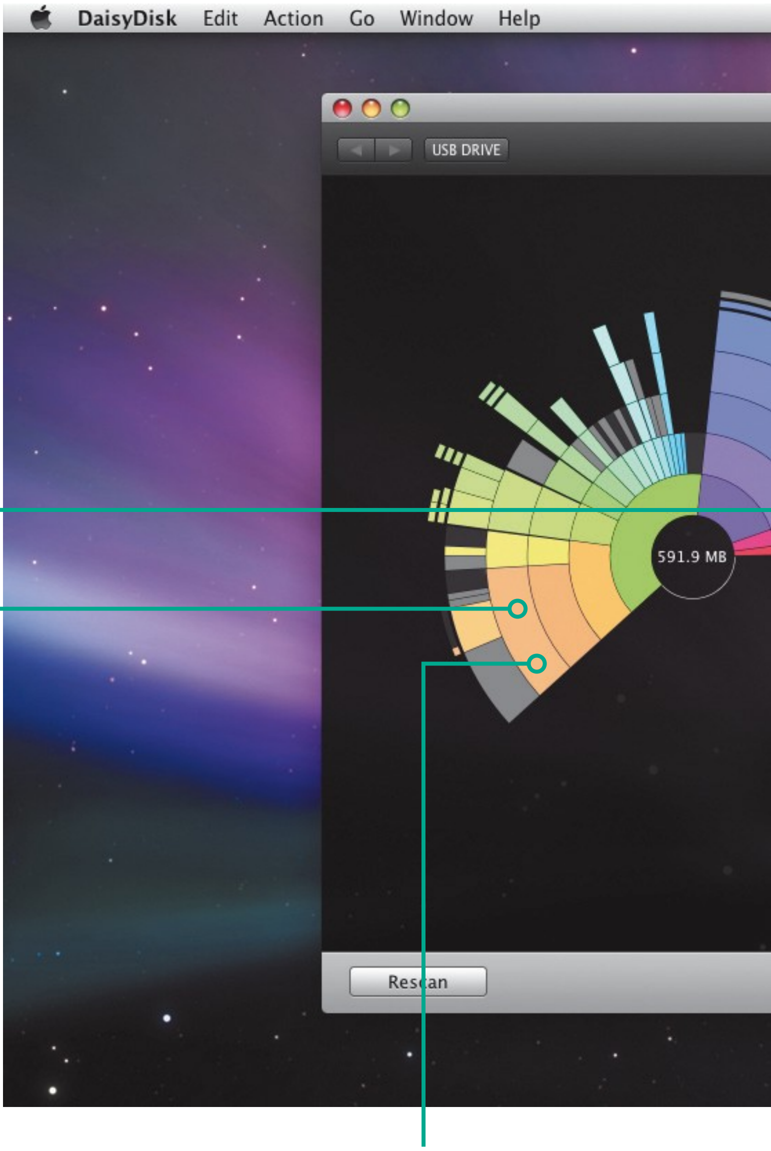
Ian Tromp

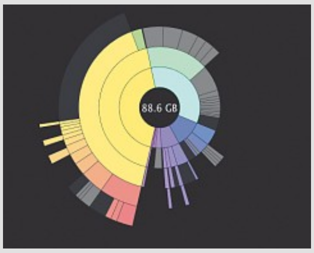
Getting started

When you start up *DaisyDisk*, you'll see a list of all your available disks, including external volumes and USB drives, with a simple line graph representing the space available and used on each. Hit the Scan button to start investigating any one of these in more depth. Or if you want to check on a particular folder, click Scan Folder and navigate to the location that interests you.

The daisy

That colourful daisy-like image on the screen represents every file on your drive, and the number at its centre tells you exactly how much space is currently occupied. In the right-hand panel you'll see a top-level summary of your drive's contents. (Unless you scan as a **Super-User** – an option in the **Action** menu – you will only see files that are in your **User Account**.)



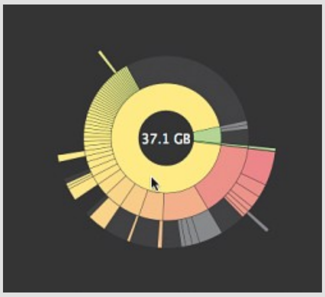


An array of files

The segments represent individual folders, and each successive ring displays your drive's contents in detail, until you get to individual files (grey). The size of each segment compared to those around it shows the relative size of the folder or file it represents.

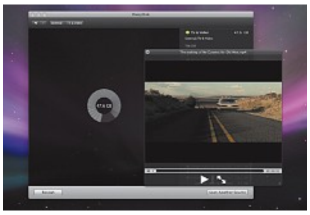
Find your way around

To move up to the parent of any folder, click on the centre of the daisy. You can navigate through the disk hierarchy by clicking in the breadcrumb trail at the top-left of the window. And in case you find it quicker than the purely visual navigation, you can move through the drive's content by clicking in the text summary on the right side of the window.



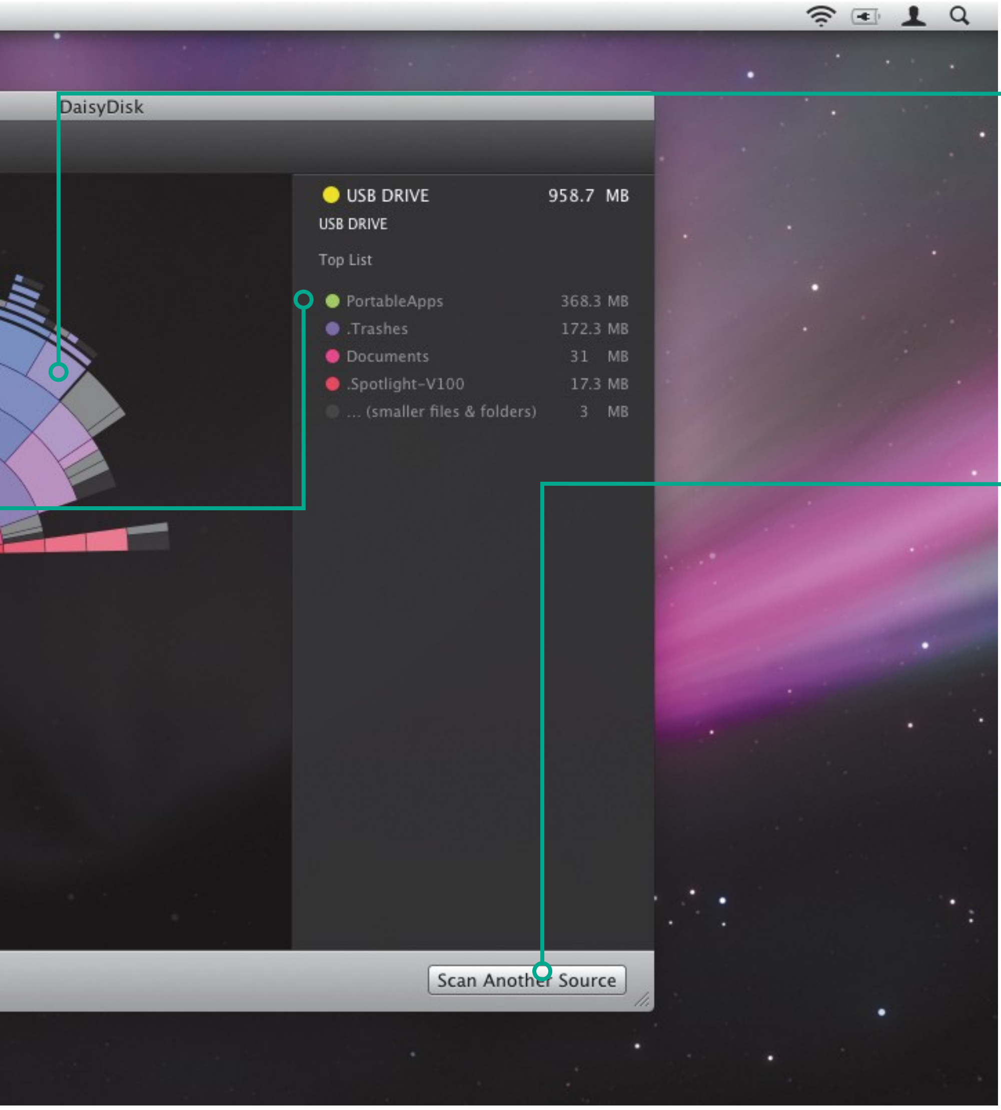
What's what

Mousing over any segment shows a summary of the content. Click on a segment to see what's filling up that section. As you zoom in, the daisy updates to show the next layer, and the figure at the centre displays the size of the enclosing folder.

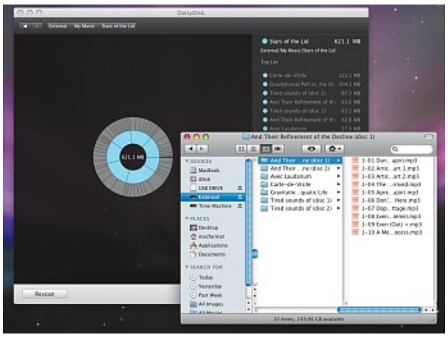


Look, quick!

One of *DaisyDisk*'s coolest features is how well it works with OS X's built-in Quick Look: just mouse over any file and hit the [Spacebar] to see a preview of the file so you can quickly drill down and then inspect any file you're not sure about.



USB DRIVE 958.7 MB
USB DRIVE
Top List
PortableApps 368.3 MB
.Trashes 172.3 MB
Documents 31 MB
.Spotlight-V100 17.3 MB
... (smaller files & folders) 3 MB



Navigating back and forth

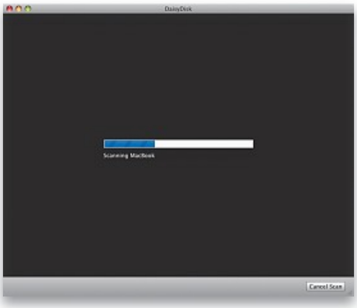
You can right-click on any segment of the image to select from a few options, including navigating backwards and forwards through the history of the folders you've already explored, and displaying a file within *Finder*, which makes it easy if you decide you want to delete a really big file you discover.

Bring it all up to date

If you've made changes as you explore in *DaisyDisk* – deleting files or adding new ones (say you had a film downloading in *iTunes* while you investigated your drive) – click Rescan to update *DaisyDisk*'s image of the disk or folder you're viewing. Click Scan Another Source to return to the disk list page.

A quick scan of your files

Scanning a new drive may feel like it's taking a little while to do, but it's actually remarkably quick when you consider today's large capacities. Surprisingly, the 320GB hard drive on our MacBook was analysed in just over one minute – not even time to boil the kettle for a cup of tea! And *DaisyDisk*'s elegant design and Core Animation transitions made the wait enjoyable.



>> DID YOU KNOW THIS

Take care when deleting your files. Don't get rid of anything you might regret later (especially if it's a big file that is permanently deleted without first being put in the Trash). Secondly, and more importantly, you should keep out of some areas altogether unless you really know what you're doing. For instance, steer clear of your **Library** and **System** folders – there are some files here that are crucial to your Mac continuing to run smoothly, and deleting any of them might lead to all kinds of things going wrong. *DaisyDisk* also shows the contents of your **usr** and **private** folders, which are not usually visible in *Finder* – steer well clear of these, too. And don't go deleting anything from the **Applications** folder unless you're really sure that you want to remove that program.

Master the Dock and Stacks

OS X Basics Get more organised and navigate files and folders with ease

>> KEY INFO

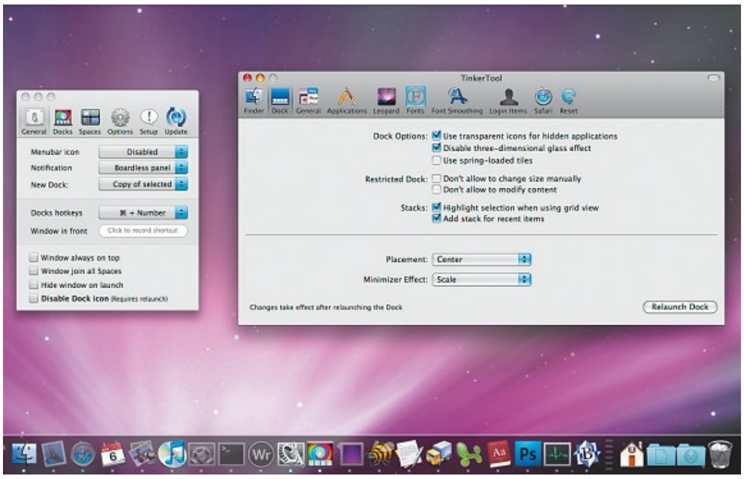
DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac OS X 10.5, TinkerTool (on the disc), DockSpaces (on the disc)

>> ON THE DISC
Find the apps here on this issue's disc.

The Dock arrived with Mac OS X, back in March 2001, and Apple says it enables "fast, one-click access to frequently used applications, folders and even downloads". Because of its slightly muddled role – storage for shortcuts and minimised app windows, app launcher and switcher – the Dock can confuse. This tutorial offers a primer on the workings of the Dock for beginners, and provides tips that will enable all Mac users to get more from one of Mac OS X's most regularly used components.



Menubar icon: Disabled
Notification: Boardless panel
New Dock: Copy of selected
Docks hotkeys: ⌘ + Number
Window in front: Click to record shortcut
☐ Window always on top
☐ Window join all Spaces
☐ Hide window on launch
☐ Disable Dock icon (Requires relaunch)

Dock Options: ☑ Use transparent icons for hidden applications
☑ Disable three-dimensional glass effect
☐ Use spring-loaded tiles
Restricted Dock: ☐ Don't allow to change size manually
☐ Don't allow to modify content
Stacks: ☑ Highlight selection when using grid view
☑ Add stack for recent items
Placement: Center
Minimizer Effect: Scale
Changes take effect after relaunching the Dock

DockSpaces (left) and TinkerTool (right) let you store multiple Docks and tweak Dock settings.

Anatomy of a Dock

By default, the Dock sits at the foot of the screen, a striped divider splitting it in two. The left-hand side is reserved for applications and the right-hand side for folders, documents, minimised app windows and the trash. To add a new Dock shortcut, drag an item to the relevant Dock area from *Finder*. Folders display as stacks (spring-loaded folders that enable access to the contents within, thanks to Leopard's Stacks feature), whereas other items can be launched with a single click. To remove an item, drag it out of the Dock. Note: you're merely removing a shortcut, not the item from your Mac.

The divider isn't just for show. Click-drag it up and down to resize the Dock (hold ⌥ to do this via large increments), ⇧-drag to alter which screen edge the Dock is pinned to, and ctrl-click to access the Settings menu, enabling you to toggle Dock magnification and auto-hiding, and define the Dock's position and window minimise effect.

All applications that are running have a blue dot beneath them, and by click-holding or ctrl-clicking on an icon, it reveals a menu, which provides access to application-specific commands (such as Get New Mail for *Mail*) and generic options for things like hiding and quitting an app.

> "This tutorial offers a primer on the workings of the Dock for beginners, and provides tips that will enable all Mac users to get more from it"

If you use few apps regularly, adding them all to the Dock makes sense. However, if you use many, the Dock soon becomes cluttered and shrinks in size to accommodate your collection of shortcuts. Under such circumstances, we suggest removing all your apps from the Dock (drag closed ones off; for open ones, select Remove from Dock from relevant icon menus), and using the Dock merely for showing open apps and for switching between them. (To then launch apps, use Spotlight or drag your Applications folder to the right-hand side of the Dock and set its content to display as Grid if your screen's big enough to view all your apps, or List if it isn't.)

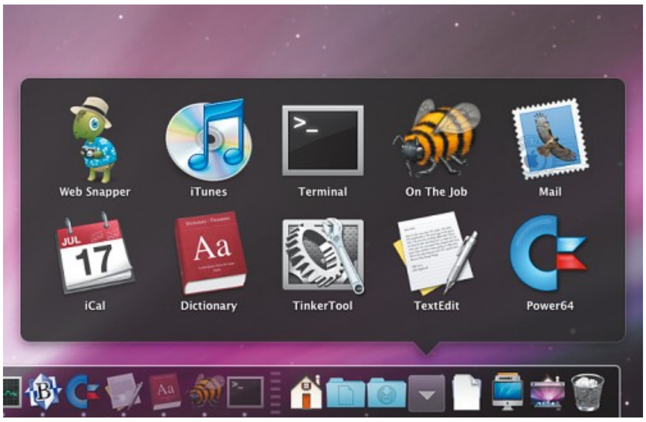
Take the shortcut

It's also beneficial to learn some keyboard shortcuts. ⌘+⌥+D toggles the Dock's visibility on a system-wide basis – useful for when you want to temporarily hide the Dock. Keyboard shortcuts in tandem with clicks can enable further useful actions to be performed: ⌘-click to reveal an item in *Finder*; ⌘+⌥-click to hide all other apps; ctrl+⌥-click to reveal a Force Quit option for frozen apps; ⌘-drag to *Finder* to change an item's location on your Mac.

Finally, free third-party utilities can reveal further functionality for your Dock. On the next page, we use *DockSpaces* (www.nscoding.co.uk) and *TinkerTool* (www.bresink.de) to show you what else you can do. You will find both of these apps on this issue's disc.

Craig Grannell

A 'recent items' stack (added via Terminal) can be used to quickly access recent apps or documents.



>> HOW TO / Make navigating files and folders easier

01 Back up your settings

In case your changes don't go to plan, back up your existing Dock setup. You can do this by taking a copy of **com.apple.dock.plist** (~/Library/Preferences/), which is the file that stores your Dock settings. To reapply the settings later, overwrite the file in the aforementioned **Preferences** folder with your copy, and in *Terminal* type

```
killall Dock
```

and hit ↩ to restart your Dock. Alternatively, install and launch *DockSpaces*. Your existing Dock will be 'saved' in its **Docks** section. You can then create a copy via Docks > Add New Dock (or ⌘+=). Docks within the list can be double-clicked to rename them, and Docks > Load selected Dock (or ⌘+↩) switches to the selected Dock setup.

02 Get rid of the glass

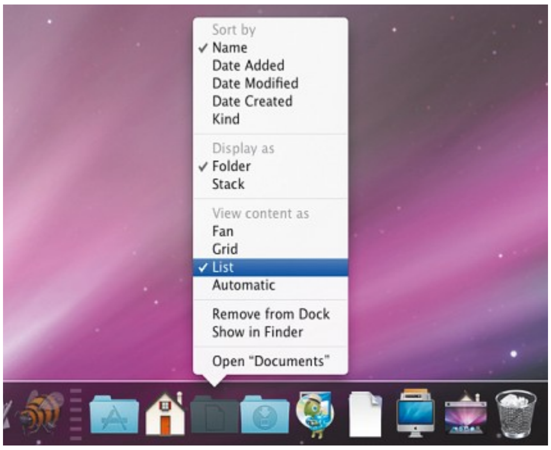
Position the Dock at the side of your screen (by ctrl-clicking the striped divider and choosing **Left** or **Right** from **Position on Screen**) and you get a simple and sleek 2D Dock. The lack of 'glass' and reflections makes the Dock less distracting and more usable, especially when it comes to making out highlight indicators for running apps. Apple doesn't enable you to set a Dock positioned at the bottom screen edge to this style, but *TinkerTool* does. Install and launch it, go to the **Dock** section and select **Disable three-dimensional glass effect**. Click **Relaunch Dock**.

03 Make the Dock more usable

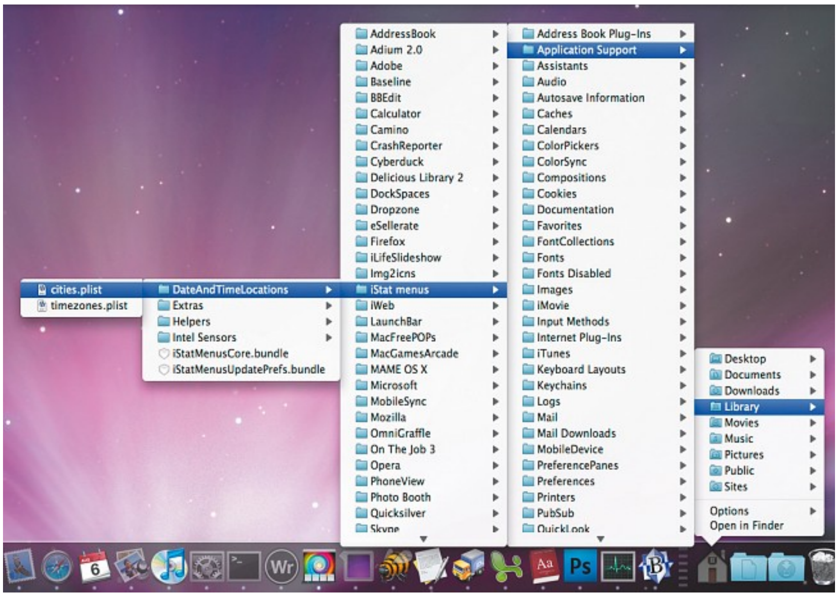
TinkerTool offers further Dock options. Check **Use transparent icons for hidden applications** and an app's Dock icon will become semi-transparent when the app is hidden. Next, select **Scale** from **Minimizer Effect** – it's not as pretty as the **Genie** effect, but it's quicker and less taxing on your Mac. Click **Relaunch Dock**.

04 Tame your stacks

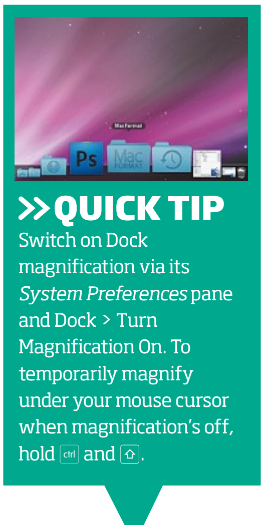
By default, Mac OS X places **Documents** and **Downloads** stacks in the Dock, but you can drag any folder to the Dock's right-hand area. By default, a stack's content appears in fan formation if there are few items within the folder and as a grid if there are more than 12.


Sort by
✓ Name
Date Added
Date Modified
Date Created
Kind
Display as
✓ Folder
Stack
View content as
Fan
Grid
✓ List
Automatic
Remove from Dock
Show in Finder
Open "Documents"

If you're not happy with your Dock stacks, there are plenty of display options available to you.


cities.plist
timezones.plist
DateAndTimeLocations
Extras
Helpers
Intel Sensors
iStatMenusCore.bundle
iStatMenusUpdatePrefs.bundle
AddressBook
Adium 2.0
Adobe
Baseline
BBEdit
Calculator
Camino
CrashReporter
Cyberduck
Delicious Library 2
DockSpaces
Dropzone
eSellerate
Firefox
iLifeSlideshow
Img2icns
iStat menus
iWeb
LaunchBar
MacFreePOPs
MacGamesArcade
MAME OS X
Microsoft
MobileSync
Mozilla
OmniGraffle
On The Job 3
Opera
PhoneView
Photo Booth
Quicksilver
Skype
Address Book Plug-Ins
Application Support
Assistants
Audio
Autosave Information
Caches
Calendars
ColorPickers
ColorSync
Compositions
Cookies
Documentation
Favorites
FontCollections
Fonts
Fonts Disabled
Images
iMovie
Input Methods
Internet Plug-Ins
iTunes
Keyboard Layouts
Keychains
Logs
Mail
Mail Downloads
MobileDevice
PreferencePanes
Preferences
Printers
PubSub
QuickLook
Desktop
Documents
Downloads
Library
Movies
Music
Pictures
Public
Sites
Options
Open in Finder

By setting a Stack's content to display in list format, you can drill down into folders.



>> QUICK TIP

Switch on Dock magnification via its *System Preferences* pane and Dock > Turn Magnification On. To temporarily magnify under your mouse cursor when magnification's off, hold ctrl and ⇧.

The stack's appearance in the Dock shows a few items, ordered by name or date. But these things are problematic: the Dock icon often ends up as a few generic folders or documents, fading into the distance, and the fan and grid displays are limited for anything bar basic launching.

Few Mac users explore the wealth of new display options from a recent Leopard update. ctrl-click a stack and its pop-up menu enables you to change how the stack is sorted (**Name** sorts content alphabetically), displayed (**Folder** shows the folder icon), and how content is viewed. Set the last of those to **List** and you can drill down into folders via the stack. Drag your **Home** folder into the Dock, set **Display as** to **Folder** and **View content as** to **List** and you can navigate your documents from the Dock.

05 Add recent item stacks

When Apple announced **Stacks**, it was thought they'd be akin to smart folders, pulling in items from all over your Mac. In reality, they're just expandable standard folders, but there are hidden options to create a stack for recent items. In *TinkerTool*, check **Add stack for recent items** in the **Dock** section and restart your Dock. You'll see a stack with your recent apps. ctrl-click to access settings for making it display recent documents or volumes.

If you don't want to choose between recent apps, documents and volumes, you can add multiple instances of this special stack. Go to *Terminal*, type the following (all on one line) and hit ↩:

```
defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-others -array-add '{
"tile-data" = { "list-type" = 1; }; "tile-type" = "recents-tile"; }'
```

Each time you repeat this (in *Terminal*, press the up arrow and hit ↩), another 'recent items' stack is added. Type

```
killall Dock
```

and hit ↩. If there are too many, remove one by ctrl-clicking it and selecting **Remove from Dock**. ●

stock images
DEVICES
Macbook
Macintosh HD
DATA
iDisk
Music
PLACES
Desktop
mac
Applications
Documents
Movies
Music
Pictures
SEARCH FOR
Today
Holiday 2009.dvdproj
Parallels
stock images
8 items, 13.83 GB available
Today
Now
Cancel
Today at 12:03
Restore
MacBook Pro

Give Time Machine more space with a bigger drive.

Transfer Time Machine files

When you run out of space, you need to move your backups to a bigger drive

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: Varies

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X 10.5, Time Machine, two removable hard drives (USB 2.0 or FireWire)

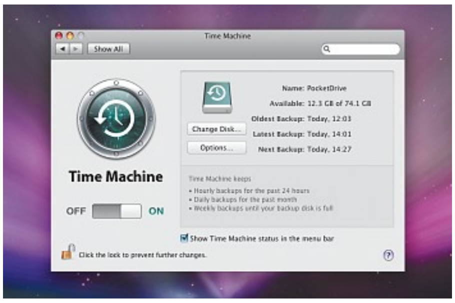
Apple's introduction of *Time Machine* in OS X 10.5 was great news for all Mac users, because it finally addressed the issue of backing up in a very slick and user-friendly way. Although we all know we should, very few of us actually back up with any regularity and run the risk of losing important data. *Time Machine* gets around this problem of human nature being a bit lazy by regularly and automatically backing up your system to an external hard drive. Crucially though, after the initial backup *Time Machine* backs up only changed files, meaning your drive fills up reasonably slowly unless you keep adding lots of new data to the drive that's being backed up.

One problem that can arise with any backup system is that you may fill up the external backup drive. *iLife* projects, movies, pictures and music libraries can all get big quickly. Since *Time Machine* lets you view the contents of any folder at any backup point, you can go back and recover items that have been deleted. A side effect of this is that, over time, even large drives will get full. So the solution is to get a bigger drive.

> *"One problem that can arise with any backup system is that you may fill up the external backup drive"*

With 1TB and larger drives now relatively inexpensive, this is easy. If you just plugged in the new backup drive, however, *Time Machine* would simply back up the Mac as it existed at that point. You would lose the previous backups and the ability to go 'back in time' to before you switched drives. The answer is to use *Disk Utility* to clone the contents of the older drive onto the new one, then specify the new one as a backup drive using *Time Machine*'s preferences. By doing this you retain all your backup history but have a bigger drive on which to continue backing up in the future, and should that one ever fill up, just repeat the process with an even larger drive.
Hollin Jones

HOW TO / Transfer Time Machine backups to a new drive


Time Machine
Show All
Change Disk...
Options...
Time Machine
OFF
ON

Name: PocketDrive
Available: 12.3 GB of 74.1 GB
Oldest Backup: Today, 12:03
Latest Backup: Today, 14:01
Next Backup: Today, 14:27

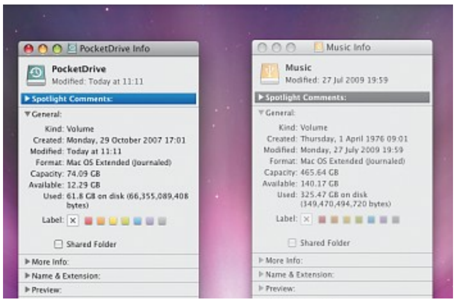
Time Machine keeps
- Hourly backups for the past 24 hours
- Daily backups for the past month
- Weekly backups until your backup disk is full

☑ Show Time Machine status in the menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

01 Check Time Machine

Open *System Preferences* and go to the **Time Machine** pane. You should see the date of the last backup plus the amount of free space remaining. It will also tell you the date of the oldest backup present on the drive. From this window, switch *Time Machine* off.

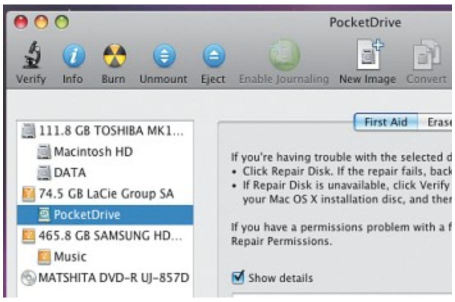

PocketDrive Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
More Info:
Name & Extension:
Preview:
Music Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
More Info:
Name & Extension:
Preview:

PocketDrive
Modified: Today at 11:11
Kind: Volume
Created: Monday, 29 October 2007 17:01
Modified: Today at 11:11
Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Capacity: 74.09 GB
Available: 12.29 GB
Used: 61.8 GB on disk (66,355,089,408 bytes)
Label:
☐ Shared Folder

Music
Modified: 27 Jul 2009 19:59
Kind: Volume
Created: Thursday, 1 April 1976 09:01
Modified: Monday, 27 July 2009 19:59
Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Capacity: 465.64 GB
Available: 140.17 GB
Used: 325.47 GB on disk (349,470,494,720 bytes)
Label:
☐ Shared Folder

02 Connect the new drive

Connect the second backup drive whilst leaving the first one connected. You can use USB 2.0 or FireWire drives. Most Macs have at least two USB 2.0 ports, though if you are using a MacBook Air you might have to use a USB 2.0 hub, which may incur a moderate speed hit.


PocketDrive
Verify
Info
Burn
Unmount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
111.8 GB TOSHIBA MK1...
Macintosh HD
DATA
74.5 GB LaCie Group SA
PocketDrive
465.8 GB SAMSUNG HD...
Music
MATSHITA DVD-R UJ-857D
First Aid
Erase

If you're having trouble with the selected d
- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify your Mac OS X installation disc, and then

If you have a permissions problem with a f Repair Permissions.

☑ Show details

03 Open Disk Utility

Open *Disk Utility* (Applications > Utilities). Both drives should appear in the list on the left. If your new drive is brand new, it may need to be formatted. *Disk Utility* should prompt you to do this if necessary. Remember that formatting will erase a drive completely.

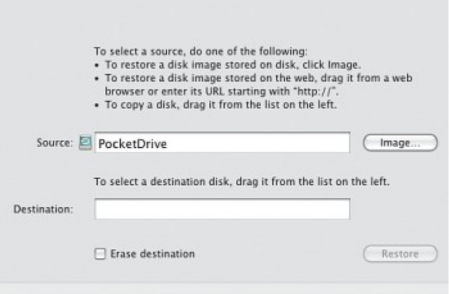


Image...
Restore

To select a source, do one of the following:
- To restore a disk image stored on disk, click Image.
- To restore a disk image stored on the web, drag it from a web browser or enter its URL starting with "http://".
- To copy a disk, drag it from the list on the left.

Source: PocketDrive

To select a destination disk, drag it from the list on the left.

Destination:

☐ Erase destination

04 Go to the Restore tab

With the older drive selected, the one with all the backups, click on the **Restore** tab in the **Disk Utility** window. Drag the original drive either using its icon on the Desktop or from the icon displayed on the left-hand side in the list of drives into the first field, called **Source**.

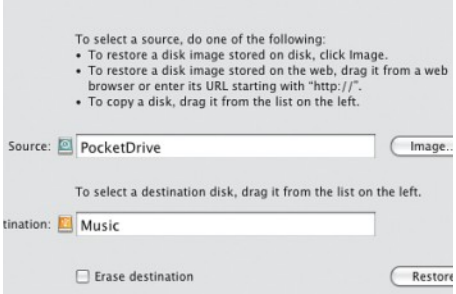


Image...
Restore

To select a source, do one of the following:
- To restore a disk image stored on disk, click Image.
- To restore a disk image stored on the web, drag it from a web browser or enter its URL starting with "http://".
- To copy a disk, drag it from the list on the left.

Source: PocketDrive

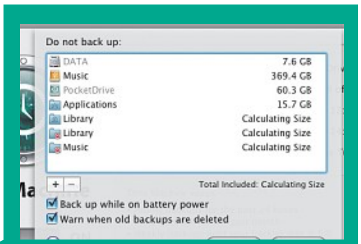
To select a destination disk, drag it from the list on the left.

tination: Music

☐ Erase destination

05 Specify target drive

Drag the new drive to the **Destination** field, again either from the Desktop or the left-hand list in *Disk Utility*. If you check the **Erase Destination** button, the destination drive will be wiped. To leave the existing content of the drive intact, make sure this box is not ticked.



Do not back up:

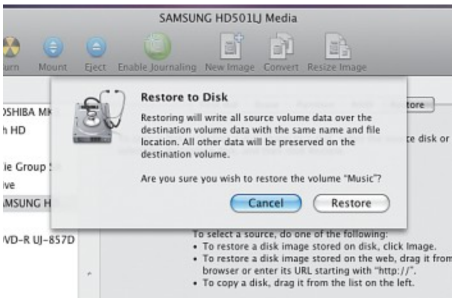
DATA	7.6 GB
Music	369.4 GB
PocketDrive	60.3 GB
Applications	15.7 GB
Library	Calculating Size
Library	Calculating Size
Music	Calculating Size

Total Included: Calculating Size

☑ Back up while on battery power
☑ Warn when old backups are deleted

QUICK TIP

You can choose to omit certain folders or volumes from *Time Machine*'s backup schedule, to save space or to exclude temporary items. Go to *Time Machine*'s preferences and click **Options**. Drag folders to the **Do not back up:** window or use the **+** button to navigate to them.


SAMSUNG HD501LJ Media
urn
Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
SHIBA MK
h HD
ie Group
ve
MSUNG H
VD-R UJ-857D
tore
e disk or
Cancel
Restore

Restore to Disk

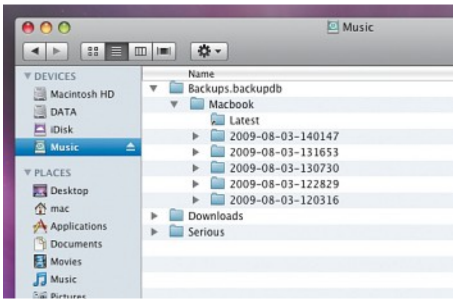
Restoring will write all source volume data over the destination volume data with the same name and file location. All other data will be preserved on the destination volume.

Are you sure you wish to restore the volume "Music"?

To select a source, do one of the following:
- To restore a disk image stored on disk, click Image.
- To restore a disk image stored on the web, drag it from browser or enter its URL starting with "http://".
- To copy a disk, drag it from the list on the left.

06 Activate the process

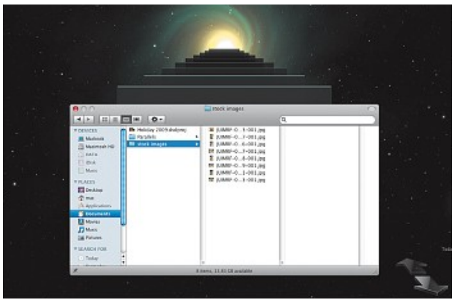
If everything looks good, hit the **Restore** button. *Disk Utility* will copy the contents of the old backup drive to the new one. This might take some time if there's a large amount of data being copied. Make sure if you're using a laptop that it's connected to a mains power source.


Music
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
DATA
iDisk
Music
PLACES
Desktop
mac
Applications
Documents
Movies
Music
Pictures
Name

- Backups.backupdb
  - Macbook
    - Latest
    - 2009-08-03-140147
    - 2009-08-03-131653
    - 2009-08-03-130730
    - 2009-08-03-122829
    - 2009-08-03-120316
- Downloads
- Serious

07 Eject and quit

After the process has completed, eject the original drive and quit *Disk Utility*. If you followed the steps correctly, the backups should have been copied over together with all the backup history, and any data that was originally on the target drive should still be there.



08 Reactivate Time Machine

Invoke *Time Machine* and you're able to move backwards to previous backup states from the new drive. Go to System Preferences > Time Machine and switch it on. If the drive doesn't appear, click **Change Disk...** and choose the new drive. Backups will now go onto that drive. ●

Use your iDisk on an iPhone

Access your online documents while on the move

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 10 minutes

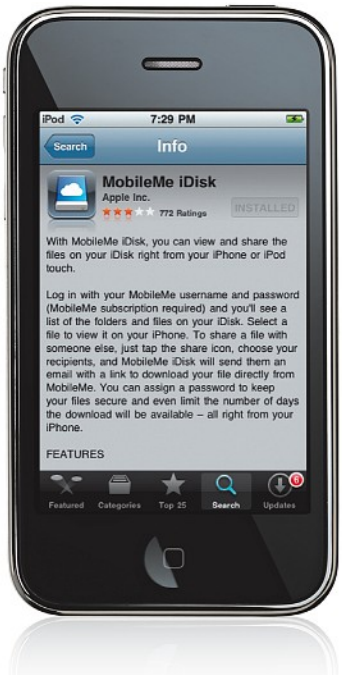
WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple's MobileMe iDisk app (£FREE, the App Store), a MobileMe account (£59 per year, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

MobileMe's iDisk is Apple's online storage solution and is available to everybody who has a MobileMe account. It provides you with an easy way to store and share your files online, and integration with OS X means that copying files to your iDisk is as easy as copying files to another folder on your Mac. You can also access it through an internet browser, so it's compatible with Windows as well.

Now, to make things even simpler, you no longer have to be tied to a Mac or PC in order to get to these files. Apple's free *MobileMe iDisk* application enables you to access your iDisk and the data on it from an iPhone or iPod touch. As well as using the program to view the documents and media you have stored online, it enables you to share these files with other users and even add a password, right on the iPhone. To share a file with someone else, you simply select it from your iDisk and enter the email address of the person you want to share it with, and they'll be able to download the file from a link that's provided.

The *MobileMe iDisk* program is a useful addition to your app library and, best of all, it's completely free. In this tutorial we'll show you how to use it to its full potential.

Paul Townsend


iPod
7:29 PM
Search
Info
INSTALLED
Featured
Categories
Top 25
Search
Updates

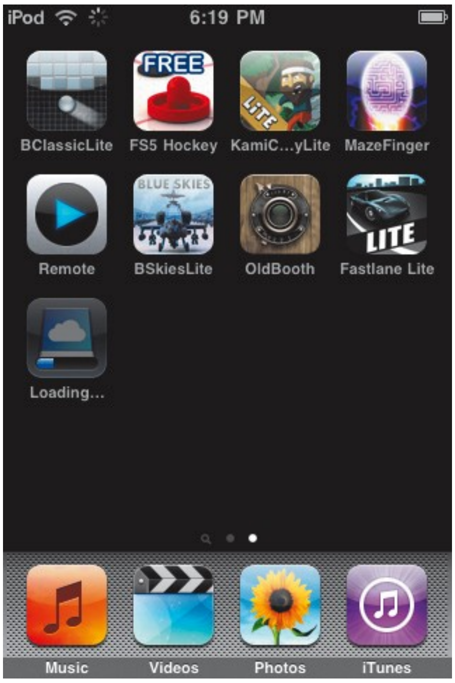
MobileMe iDisk
Apple Inc.
772 Ratings

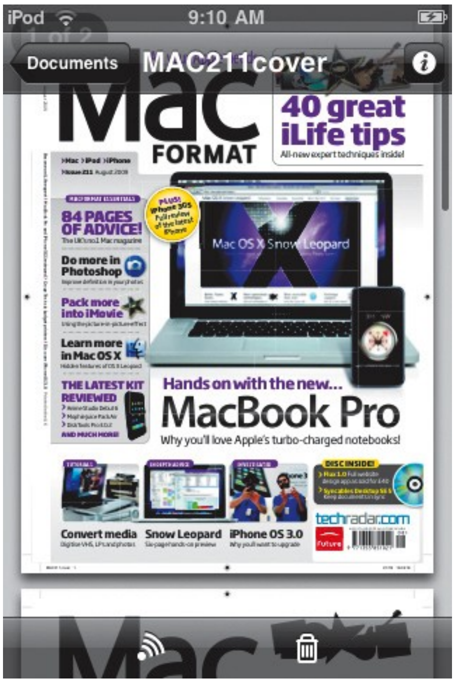
With MobileMe iDisk, you can view and share the files on your iDisk right from your iPhone or iPod touch.

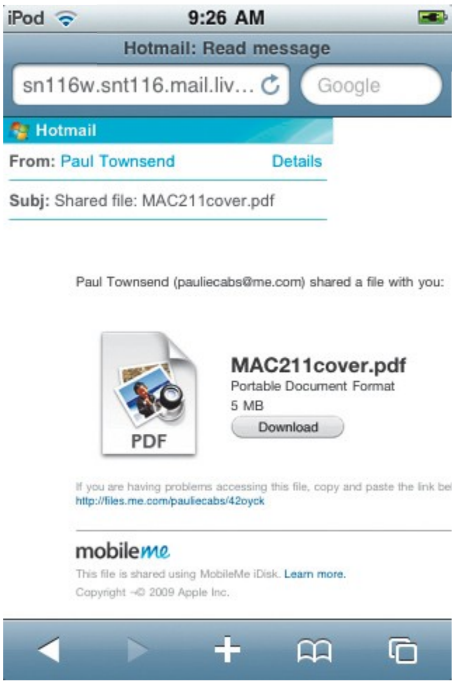
Log in with your MobileMe username and password (MobileMe subscription required) and you'll see a list of the folders and files on your iDisk. Select a file to view it on your iPhone. To share a file with someone else, just tap the share icon, choose your recipients, and MobileMe iDisk will send them an email with a link to download your file directly from MobileMe. You can assign a password to keep your files secure and even limit the number of days the download will be available – all right from your iPhone.

FEATURES

HOW TO / Share iDisk data with an iPhone or iPod touch


iPod
6:19 PM
FREE
BClassicLite
FS5 Hockey
KamiC...yLite
MazeFinger
Remote
BSkiesLite
OldBooth
Fastlane Lite
Loading...
Music
Videos
Photos
iTunes


iPod
9:10 AM
Documents
MAC211cover
Mac FORMAT
40 great iLife tips
84 PAGES OF ADVICE!
Do more in Photoshop
Pack more into iMovie
Learn more in Mac OS X
THE LATEST KIT REVIEWED
Hands on with the new...
MacBook Pro
Why you'll love Apple's turbo-charged notebooks!
Convert media
Snow Leopard
iPhone OS 3.0
techradar.com


iPod
9:26 AM
Hotmail: Read message
sn116w.snt116.mail.liv...
Google
Hotmail
Details
PDF
Download
mobileme

From: Paul Townsend

Subj: Shared file: MAC211cover.pdf

Paul Townsend (pauliecabs@me.com) shared a file with you:

MAC211cover.pdf
Portable Document Format
5 MB

If you are having problems accessing this file, copy and paste the link bel
http://files.me.com/pauliecabs/42oyck

This file is shared using MobileMe iDisk. Learn more.
Copyright © 2009 Apple Inc.

01 Download and login

Download and install the *MobileMe iDisk* app from the App Store on your iPhone/iPod touch. Launch the app, enter your MobileMe member name and password and tap Go. You now have access to your iDisk.

02 Tap to share

Tapping a document once brings up the controls that enable you to return to the iDisk folder list. Other options here enable you to share a file with someone else. Tap the Share button to the right of a file.

03 Download shared file

Once you have selected a recipient, your email will be sent to them with the link to a location where they can download the file. This is ideal when you want to share larger files that are too bulky for email attachments. ●

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- ✓ Disable, delete & edit accounts in real time.
- ✓ Fully brandable control panels and experience.
- ✓ Web hosting accounts instantly activated.
- ✓ HostPay shopping cart free.
- ✓ Generic webmail, SSL & nameservers or your own.

Ideal for Web Designers, Developers and Entrepreneurs

Start Your Own Web Hosting Company!

Web Hosting Features

- ✓ Unlimited web space & bandwidth.
- ✓ Unlimited mailboxes, forwarding & autoresponders.
- ✓ Unlimited databases, FTP & sub domains.
- ✓ Huge CGI library including WordPress & Joomla.
- ✓ Website builder & shopping carts.
- ✓ PHP, Perl, Ruby, SSL, Stats.
- ✓ Amazing control panel & file manager.
- ✓ Over 100 features for each account.

Too Much to List!
New Features Added All The Time

Check Out Our Website!

Reseller API Now Available

"Heart Internet support their customers with market-leading hosting technology at great prices"

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What's next for music on the Mac?

The latest generation of Mac music software could change the way music is made in the future. **Cliff Douse** looks at what's in store…

The Mac has played a major part in the development of music technology over the years. And now, musicians currently using the OS X platform have access to a variety of applications that would scarcely have been imaginable when the first software sequencers appeared back in the late 1980s. Early versions of *Logic* and *Cubase* could only generate and process MIDI information – they had to be connected up to external synthesisers, samplers and drum machines in order to work. By the mid 1990s, sequencers added the ability to record and mix audio into their tracks and so 'virtual studios' were born. As computers became faster and more powerful, music technology also evolved to include virtual instruments and effects. Now anyone can make professional-sounding music with just a computer and no other instrument. We have virtual synthesisers that sound as good as hardware instruments that cost thousands of pounds. We also have a full range of software samplers that can outperform their hardware equivalents.

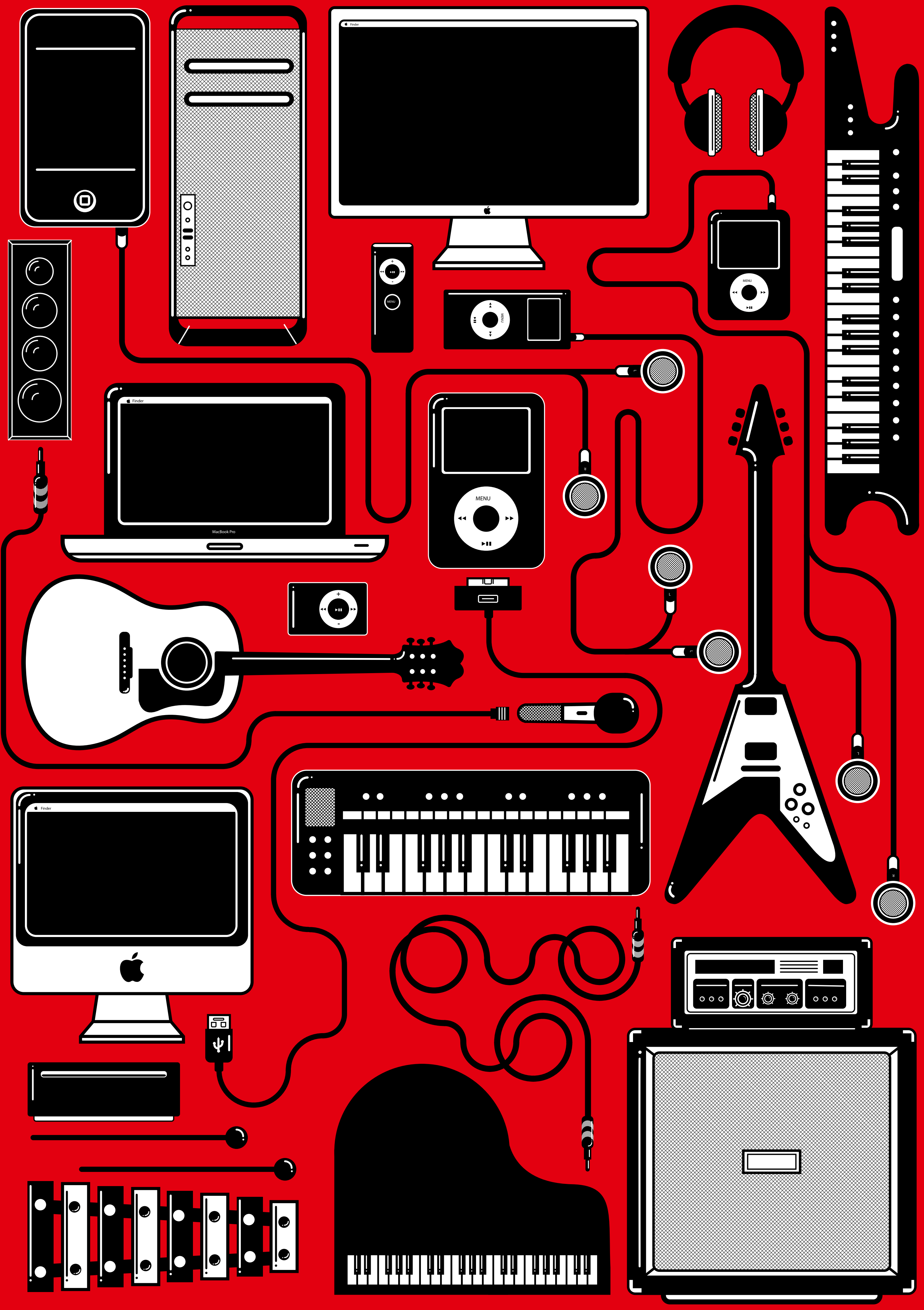
> ***"We have virtual synthesisers that sound as good as instruments that cost thousands"***

Today, advanced sequencers such as *Logic Pro*, *Cubase*, *Digital Performer* and *Pro Tools* are giving professional composers control over their music, while *GarageBand* is providing access for beginners.

Innovations have always been happening in the music software world and many groundbreaking products have appeared over the past 15 years.

Software pioneers

Back in 1994, a program called *Koan* broke new ground by being able to create music all by itself. Well almost – the user had to specify a handful of parameters before hitting the play button. In 1997, U&I Software unveiled *MetaSynth*, an original sound-design environment that can create 'soundscapes' and other sound textures. It introduced a number of unique features including an **Image Synth** that can extract musical information out of pictures. In 1999, Native Instruments introduced their modular synthesiser, *Generator*, to the Mac platform. Over »


Finder
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MacBook Pro
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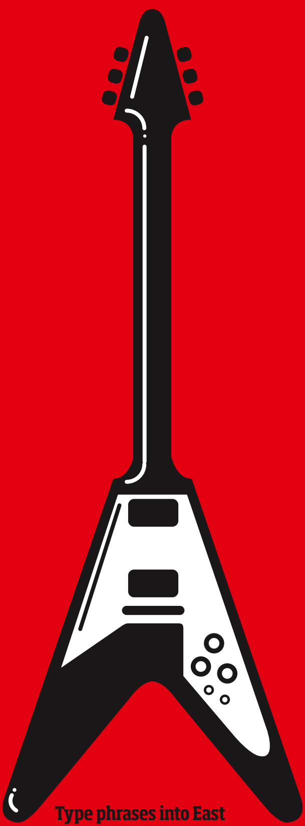


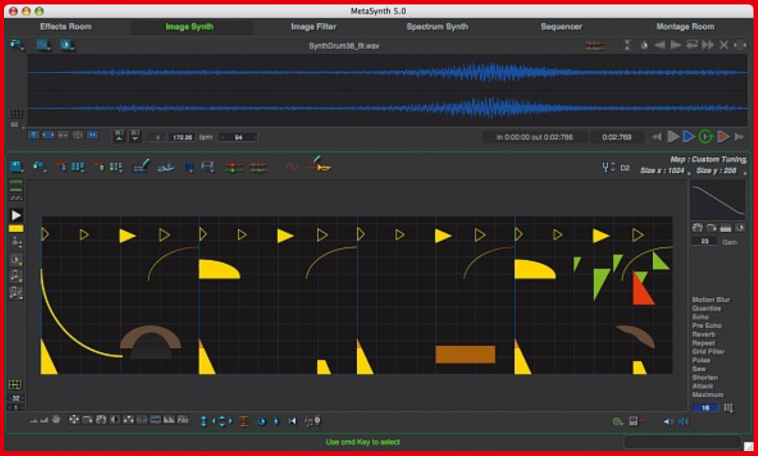
the years it evolved and its name was changed to *Reaktor*. This software, for the first time, allowed large numbers of users to build their own instruments without having to program any code. Now *Reaktor* is at *Version 5* and there are more than 2,500 user creations online ranging from synthesisers, samplers, sequencers, drum machines and effects to a variety of strange sound-mangling devices!

In 2001, Celemony launched *Melodyne*, a groundbreaking tool for correcting and modifying material. For the first time, musicians were able to open up audio files of monophonic solos or vocals and correct the intonation and timing of individual notes. *Melodyne* could also create harmonies and restructured melodies. Famous users included Peter Gabriel, Eminem, Massive Attack and Pete Townshend. Also in 2001, Ableton unveiled *Ableton Live*, a loop-based music sequencer that allowed users to compose and arrange music on-the-fly during live performances. It was easy to use and was popular with performers and DJs.

Innovations also extend to the guitar world, with virtual software amps such as *Guitar Rig* and *AmpliTube* offering tones previously associated with expensive hardware amps. Guitarists can even plug straight into their computers.

Other innovative music software applications include tuning programs like *Scala* and *L'il Miss Scale Oven*. While most music software is based upon the standard tunings used in our regular Western scale system, these apps allow us to create microtonal scales that sound out of this world. *L'il Miss Scale Oven* can even be used to retune *Logic Pro*… if you're that way inclined. There are also programs that offer ways of removing hiss and crackles from vinyl and tape recordings. Bias' *Soundsoap* and iZotope's *RX* both do the job well.

So, as you can see, music software has already covered a lot of ground and provided solutions to a number of old audio problems. You could be forgiven for thinking that there isn't much else for music-app developers to do these days, but you'd be wrong – this is just the beginning…



Create your very own amazing musical 'soundscapes' with U&I Software's MetaSynth 5.

Voice
Word Builder
EASTWEST
Voice
Text Editor
Tools
UNDO
REDO
RESET POSITION
BYPASS
PANIC
OPTIONS
PHRASES
ENGLISH
PHONETICS
VOTOX
Word
SOLO
Syllable
LEARN
Letter
Time Editor

I have walked in the land of enemies

Type phrases into East West Symphonic Choirs and hear it sing them back to you!

The next generation

A new generation of extraordinarily advanced music software programs is about to hit the streets. These include Prosoniq's *sonicWORX Pro*, a revolutionary Mac-only program that allows the user to 'reverse engineer' music audio files and extract individual components (see the 'Out of this world!' below). Its main users are likely to be Mac-equipped music studios that want to create instant-hit remixes out of existing material.

sonicWORX Pro certainly takes audio-editing to the next level. It generates massive audio analysis files that show more details than ever before, and the extracted results are undeniably impressive.

Another new launch will be Celemony's *Melodyne Editor*, unveiling their DNA (Direct Note Access) technology that, for the first time, will allow users to edit notes within chords in audio recordings. It should be ideal for editing individual notes in, for example, a complete acoustic guitar or piano piece. It would also make it possible for the user to rearrange the notes in a complete Mozart piano sonata recording while keeping the virtuosity of the performance intact.

Programs like *sonicWORX Pro* and *Melodyne Editor* clearly have extraordinary creative potential but they also raise a number of interesting legal questions. How much credit should a remixer get for a

» OUT OF THIS WORLD! / Prosoniq's sonicWORX Pro

New software programs are released all the time but once in a while something jaw-dropping will come along. Prosoniq's *sonicWORX Pro* is one such program. This Mac-only software allows the user to 'reverse engineer' a complete audio mix of music by displaying, extracting and suppressing individual instruments or voices. What this means, in plain English, is that the user will be able to extract vocals or instruments out of any song and then load them into a sequencer where they can create a different mix with it. For example, a music producer could use the software to extract vocals out of a Beatles or Oasis song and put them to a hip-hop groove within *Logic Pro*.

This is a serious piece of software that uses sophisticated algorithms. The analysis files take up 1-2GB of disk space for every minute of audio and the minimum system requirements are equally substantial: an Intel Mac with 2.66GHz Core 2 Duo or 2.8GHz Quad Core Intel Xeon CPU, 4GB RAM, 125GB free disk space, and OS X 10.5.6 or later. It will ship any time now at an eye-watering retail price of €1,690 (around £1,450), although a cut-down version will be available later.

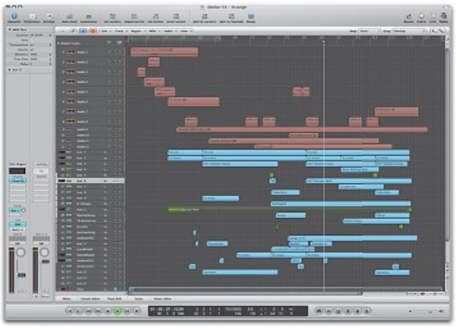
new version of another musician's song and how much should the original artist get? What would happen if the original artist didn't want their material used in such a way? And what would happen if their material was used anyway, without their knowledge or permission? The Performing Rights Society wasn't available to comment in time for our publication, but it would be tricky to police the abuse of audio manipulation software.

Other exciting new launches include U&I Software's *MetaSynth 5*, the latest and first Leopard-compatible version of their sound-environment program. It boasts a significant number of sophisticated new features and the audio demos we have heard are extraordinary.

A BRAND NEW LOGIC / Introducing Version 9…

The latest version of *Logic Studio* has just hit the streets introducing *Logic Pro 9*, the most advanced version yet of Apple's flagship sequencer. *Logic Pro 9* boasts an advanced new suite of audio-editing tools. The **Flex** tool allows you to instantly edit the phrasing and timing of vocal tracks and other monophonic material with the click of a mouse – it's useful for correcting bad timing and creating entirely new phrases. **Audio Quantize** enables the user to synchronise individual or multiple events in an audio file to a groove in a piece. And with **Varispeed**, you can slow down an arrangement without changing the pitch; perfect for recording a challenging guitar or piano part at a more comfortable tempo – the recorded part then plays back in time when you switch back to the original tempo.

Guitar players in particular will love *Logic Pro 9* as it introduces an arsenal of virtual guitar amps, cabinets and effects with which they can craft their guitar sound. And for live musicians, this version has tools that enable them to create and tweak loops on the fly. It's the best version of the software yet and confirms Apple's commitment to the product. See our review of *Logic Studio* on page 86.



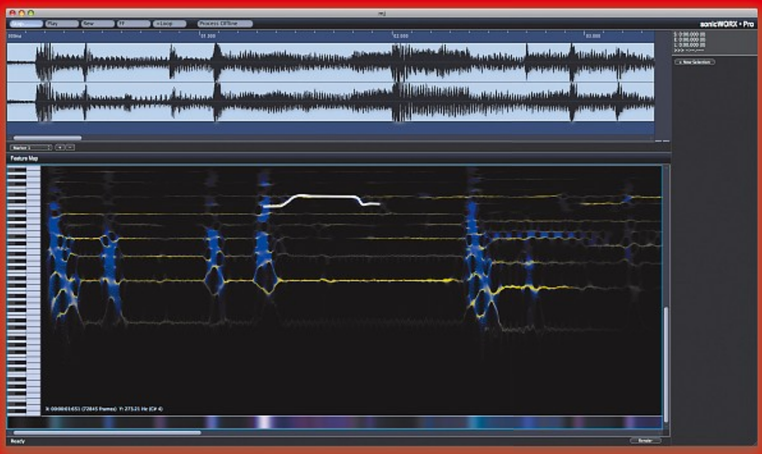
Logic Pro 9 boasts some fabulous new features. See page 86.

Here today

Other state-of-the-art programs are already here. *EastWest Symphonic Choirs* is a virtual choir engine with a difference – you can play the male, female and boy choirs as normal with your keyboard, but you can also type English or Latin phrases into the program's **Word Builder** and get the choirs to sing them with authenticity.

The generative music concept pioneered by Koan in the 1990s has been taken further with *Noatikl* and *Nodal*. *Noatikl* boasts a simpler and more powerful interface, while *Nodal* has a unique graphical interface developed by Monash University.

New versions of popular music notation programs, *Sibelius* and *Finale*, have appeared with more advanced features. *Sibelius 6* claims to be able to create perfect scores as you write them.



Extract voices and instruments from a complete mix with sonicWORX Pro.

Groove machines have also become more sophisticated. *Stylus RMX*, for example, can play 24bit drum loops, change their tuning, modify their rhythmic structure and even convert them into different time signatures in sync with your software sequencer.

> *"…type the English or Latin phrases into the program's Word Builder and get the choirs to sing them with authenticity"*

Musical apps have also reached the iPhone. These include: *Beatmaker*, a digital audio workstation for creating music; *Band*, a collection of virtual instruments; *Guitar Toolkit*, a set of useful tools (tuner, chord finder and metronome) for a guitarist; *Shazam*, which recognises any song you play it; and *Bloom*, a generative music application from Brian Eno.

Meanwhile, Meanwhile, Apple's flagship music app, *Logic Pro* has just reached *Version 9* (see 'A brand new Logic', above, and check out our review on page 86), and *GarageBand '09* is bigger and better than ever, offering beginners and consumers the chance to take their musical adventures to the next level.

Looking to the future

By the end of the year we'll have programs for analysing and editing audio files in ways that were previously impossible. We will also have access to new and improved applications that allow us to make music in more creative ways. There will be something for everyone from hit-makers to home hobbyists.

There's never been a better time for making music than now and the future looks even better with all the exciting new apps that are becoming available for you at home, in the studio, or even on the bus! ●

Q&A

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

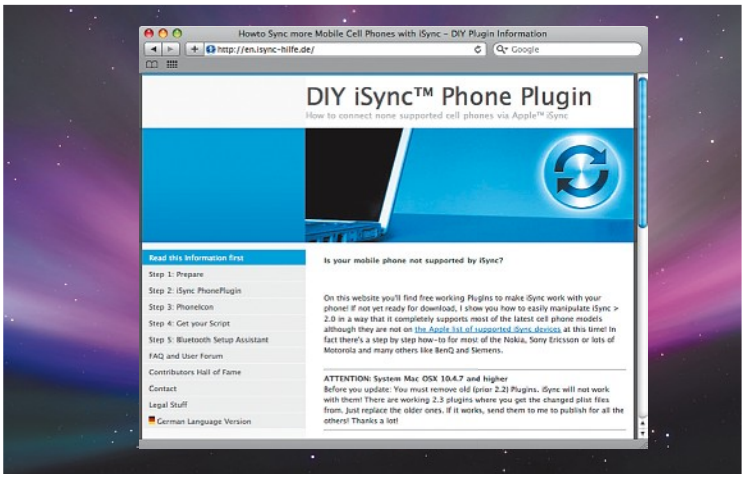
Why can't I install a game on my iMac properly?

Q I have a 20-inch Intel iMac, which I bought in January 2008. I've tried putting my new game (*Command & Conquer: Red Alert 3*) into my applications like it asks. It loads to 99% then freezes and says Error 36.

Terry May

A Error 36 is a disk I/O error; it's the equivalent of the cyclic redundancy check (CRC) errors on PCs. This could well be a sign of a failing drive or it could just be minor filing system corruption. You could try repairing the drive in *Disk Utility*. If that doesn't fix the problem, get in contact with Apple for a warranty replacement on your drive.

You should be able to play games just fine on your Mac unless your drive is failing...


Howto Sync more Mobile Cell Phones with iSync – DIY Plugin Information
http://en.isync-hilfe.de/
Google
DIY iSync™ Phone Plugin
How to connect none supported cell phones via Apple™ iSync
Read this Information first
Step 1: Prepare
Step 2: iSync PhonePlugin
Step 3: PhoneIcon
Step 4: Get your Script
Step 5: Bluetooth Setup Assistant
FAQ and User Forum
Contributors Hall of Fame
Contact
Legal Stuff
German Language Version

Is your mobile phone not supported by iSync?

On this website you'll find free working Plugins to make iSync work with your phone! If not yet ready for download, I show you how to easily manipulate iSync > 2.0 in a way that it completely supports most of the latest cell phone models although they are not on the Apple list of supported iSync devices at this time! In fact there's a step by step how-to for most of the Nokia, Sony Ericsson or lots of Motorola and many others like BenQ and Siemens.

ATTENTION: System Mac OSX 10.4.7 and higher
Before you update: You must remove old (prior 2.2) Plugins. iSync will not work with them! There are working 2.3 plugins where you get the changed plist files from. Just replace the older ones. If it works, send them to me to publish for all the others! Thanks a lot!

If your phone isn't supported directly by iSync, there may be a plug-in that could help.

Why do my drives disconnect themselves?

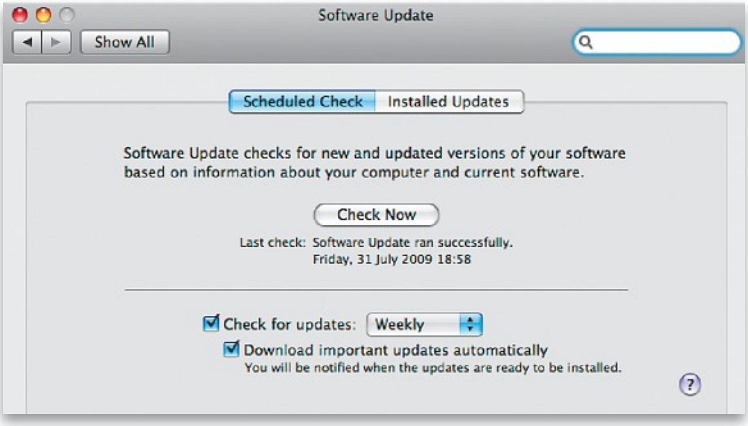
Q I have an iMac G5 and run Leopard. We all know about the *Time Machine* attribute. I have a 500GB external hard drive dedicated for *Time Machine* needs. For the most part, backups are performed routinely. However, at least once a day, while working elsewhere in the computer, I receive the message about device removal and the caveat regarding lost data, etc. What frustrates me is what is triggering the device removal? To the best of my knowledge, I have done nothing to instigate this action. I look on my screen and the *Time Machine* icon is gone. Do you have any advice?

Tom Sashko

A It's a problem with the OS X Sleep mode. If you open the Energy Saver preference pane, you will probably see that Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible is ticked. This applies to any external disks as well. Ideally, external disks would be dismounted gracefully before sleeping them, but it doesn't always happen with all drives – particularly USB drives. In some cases, the drive does dismount correctly but when *Time Machine* kicks in, the disk takes too long to spin back up and it gets reported as missing in action.

One approach is, of course, to disable this energy saver option. This won't necessarily stop the external drives from sleeping because some drives will do this by themselves from their firmware but it should reduce the amount of time the drive sleeps.

Or, download *SleepWatcher* from www.bernhard-baehr.de. Alternatively, you can find it on this issue's disc. This runs as a background process that detects your iMac entering and leaving Sleep mode and you can use this as the trigger for automatically dismounting and



Software Update checks for new and updated versions of your software based on information about your computer and current software.

Last check: Software Update ran successfully.
Friday, 31 July 2009 18:58

☑ Check for updates: Weekly
☑ Download important updates automatically
You will be notified when the updates are ready to be installed.

re-mounting your external drives.

To create the script make a plain text file called **sleep.txt**:

```
   #!/bin/sh
   osascript -e ‘tell application “Finder” to eject
(disks where free space ≠ 0)’
```

Add another called **wakeup.txt**:

```
   #!/bin/sh
/usr/sbin/diskutil list | grep -e ‘ \+[0-9]\+:
\+[^ ]\+ [^ ]\+’ | sed ‘s/.*\(disk[0-9].*\)/\1/’ |
xargs -I{} /usr/sbin/diskutil mount {}
```

Hide the scripts. Open *Terminal* and type in the following:

```
   $ mv Desktop/sleep.txt .sleep
   $ chmod a+x .sleep
   $ mv Desktop/wakeup.txt .wakeup
   $ chmod a+x .wakeup
```

SleepWatcher will now unmount and eject any removable disks whenever your Mac sleeps and reconnect them when it wakes.

Why can't I sync my contacts with my mobile phone?

Q **I use a Nokia E71x phone and a Sony Ericsson W810i with an iMac running OS X 10.4.11. I've downloaded the plug-ins from Nokia, updated my software on the Mac and can pair both devices and browse them from the Mac. I can transfer data using Bluetooth via the Browse Device feature and the *Nokia Multimedia Transfer* app. However, none of the contacts in *Address Book* on the Mac is being sent to the devices.**

Rhajan Kodumal

Software Update should be set to check automatically and install important updates.

A The W810i is supported by *iSync*. Assuming the phone has been correctly added to the list of devices in *iSync* and has been Bluetooth paired from the iMac, one or more of your contacts may be corrupted. Try deleting the contacts from the phone and creating a new one. If this syncs, you can re-enter the other contacts. If it doesn't, take the contacts out of *Address Book* on the iMac as well.

Once the W810i is syncing you can try the E71x. The E71 is supported by *iSync* so it's possible that the E71x might work using the same plug-in. If it doesn't, you can also try the universal *iSync* plug-in from http://en.isync-hilfe.de/.

Read more about syncing your mobile in Bill Gallop's column (right).

Where is the iPhoto update that supports raw files?

Q **I have an iMac running OS X 10.5.6. When a digital RAW compatibility download was available for my D90 Nikon, I downloaded it so I could open NEF (Nikon's raw files) in *Preview* and *iPhoto*. Where can I now get this download to add to my MacBook?**

Francesca Shearcroft

A Compatibility with D90 was added in 10.5.7, so turn on Software Update in *System Preferences*. In fact, you should always have this on to automatically update.

Syncing your mobile phone

Bill Gallop

One challenge of owning a mobile phone is making sure your contacts' information is up to date. When you buy a new mobile there is also the added challenge of copying these details over to the new phone.

To make life easy, you could buy an iPhone and copy the details onto your Mac for storage. But even then not everything you want to sync to your Mac will be copied over. For example call data, who you called and who called you, as well as your SMS messages, do not get copied over by *iTunes*. If you need to keep track of calls, an app such as *The Missing Sync for iPhone* from Mark/Space (**www.markspace.com**) will be essential (and you can find it on this issue's disc}. In addition to this app Mark/Space has products for other mobiles as well as Palm and Sony PSP.

If you don't need a full-featured suite of sync software then *iSync* is worth a look. Find it in your **Applications** folder. Whilst Apple supports a wide range of devices in *iSync* (**http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2824**) the list hasn't been updated for some time and Apple tends to be encouraging handset manufacturer's and third parties to create *iSync* plug-ins instead. Of all the major phone manufacturers, it's only really Nokia and Sony Ericsson who provide their own plug-ins (but not for all of their phones). For other mobiles you'll need to look elsewhere. *Nova Media* (**www.novamedia.de/index_e.html**), supports more than 250 phones. *Nova Media* also supplies *FoneLink*, which is an alternative to *The Missing Sync* for managing the data on your phone and covers a range of mobiles. You can also find it on the disc.

> *"Call data, who you called and who called you, as well as SMS messages do not get copied over to your Mac by iTunes"*

For syncing to Windows Mobile devices try *PocketMac* (**www.pocketmac.com/index6.php**) who also offer solutions for backing up *SalesForce* data as well as syncing to *Lotus Notes* and *Meeting Maker*.

iSync plug-ins will sync *Address Book* and *iCal* data to your phone but if you want to sync your *iTunes* playlists and photos from *iPhoto*, *The Missing Sync*, *FoneLink* and *PocketMac* can do that. But there is also a free solution that complements *iSync* - *Salling Media Sync* from Salling Software (**www.salling.com**). This app is free in its basic version (get it from the disc) but for $22 (£13) you get a version that syncs much faster. Nokia and Sony Ericsson provide software to sync your media for a range of phones.

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

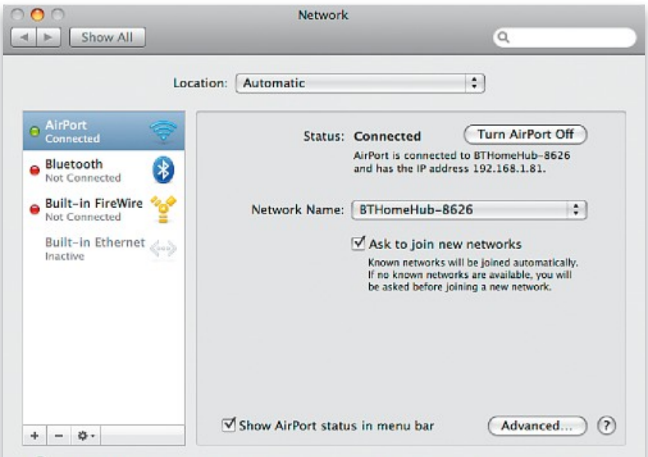
>> QUICK TIP

If a website refuses to work with *Safari*, open Preferences > Advanced and tick the **Show developer menu in menu bar** box. Now click on Developer > User Agent on the *Safari* menu and you can make *Safari* pretend to be any other browser you like.
Submitted by Brian O'Reilly

Why is my iMac's WiFi signal fluctuating?

Q **Ever since updating my Intel iMac to OS X version 10.5.7, I've had persistent problems with my wireless internet connection. The signal strength has become very variable and frequently drops away completely (according to the indicator bars in the AirPort menu in the top-right of the screen). Even when there are some black bars, the internet can be completely unresponsive. I've had this iMac for 18 months and the wireless internet connection had been working perfectly before the update was installed.**

Looking on the Apple support forum there seems to be a lot of other people experiencing similar problems with wireless internet connectivity since upgrading to 10.5.7. However, the silence from Apple is deafening!
Nick Scott



Location: Automatic

Status: Connected

AirPort is connected to BTHomeHub-8626 and has the IP address 192.168.1.81.

Network Name: BTHomeHub-8626

☑ Ask to join new networks

Known networks will be joined automatically. If no known networks are available, you will be asked before joining a new network.

☑ Show AirPort status in menu bar

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Deleting your network connection and creating it anew can sometime fix problems where settings have become corrupted.

A I saw your post on the Apple forums but I don't think you can necessarily conclude from all the "me too" replies that this is a definite bug with 10.5.7. There is a selection bias in effect here; anyone with wireless problems since 10.5.7 will find your post through Google (as I did) and there is a natural tendency to focus on the similarities and ignore the differences. But if you actually read them carefully, they are all quite different in their symptoms and circumstances. Really, the only thing connecting them all is that they can't reach the internet wirelessly from a Mac.

So if it's not a bug in 10.5.7, what is it? Sometimes OS updates corrupt or reset preference files, so delete com.apple.airport.airportutility.plist and reboot. Recreate your connection in System Preferences >Network. See the walkthrough on page 80.

MacBook Pro

Designed for OS X, but modern Macs with Intel processors can run Windows, too.

Is it really safe to use Windows on my Mac?

Q **I have a car with an early onboard diagnostic system. I have an app that will troubleshoot problems with the car but it will only run in Windows XP. I've purchased a copy and I plan to use *Boot Camp* to create a partition on my hard drive. I'm concerned about creating security problems on my 17-inch MacBook Pro running Leopard. I don't plan to be online while I do the diagnostic work, so should I be concerned about malware attacking Windows XP through the partition? Another**

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Powerless or frozen iPod? Tips to get your groove back

If you own one of the 170+ million iPods that have been sold worldwide, there is a chance you have encountered issues with the device freezing or being unable to power up.

Your iPod may fail to power on, may freeze at the Apple logo or during playback, or may lose click wheel functionality. Should this occur, there are several troubleshooting steps that will likely solve your issue:

1. Toggle the Hold switch Just slide it back and forth.

2. Reset your iPod Connect your iPod to a power source. (Either your Mac or a USB wall adaptor.)

Hold down the **Menu** button and the centre button for approximately 10 seconds, until the screen goes blank and the iPod restarts.

If the Apple logo appears and you can play music, the issue is solved.

3. Be sure to charge your iPod If the issue is lack of power, charge your iPod for about 20 minutes, using either a USB wall adaptor (recommended) or your computer. Note: if you use your computer, do not let it sleep or power off.

4. Put your iPod into Disk Mode Plug your iPod in to a power source. Hold down the **Menu** button and the centre button for ten seconds, until the screen goes blank and the iPod restarts. (The same for resetting your iPod.)

Now, when the Apple logo appears, release the **Menu** button and centre button and immediately press and hold the **Play/Pause** button and the centre button until the iPod boots in **Disk Mode**.

While in **Disk Mode**, plug the iPod into your computer and attempt to restore it.

If none of these troubleshooting steps have solved the issues with your powerless or frozen iPod, you should make an appointment at the Genius Bar, call AppleCare, or take your iPod in to an Apple Authorised Service Provider.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MACFIXIT TIPS / Corruption in DMG disk images

Apple's support for a variety of disk images in OS X is a convenient aspect of the operating system, allowing you to easily encrypt or compartmentalise data for easy organisation and management. While disk images are fairly robust for the most part, sometimes they can become corrupt.

Unfortunately, when corruption happens there may be little you can do to reverse it. However, there are a few things you can try.

1. Back up

Before you attempt to fix a corrupt disk image, be sure to make a copy of it. While you may be able to fix a damaged image, it is also possible that these suggestions may further corrupt it, so be sure you are working from a copy.

2. Use Disk Utility

Disk Utility comes with several routines that you can use to try to clear the problem. First, open up the program and drag the disk image copy into the devices list. Then select it and in the **First Aid** tab run a disk verification. If any problems are found, try repairing the image.

Provided the problem is still persisting, you can try converting the image or resizing it. While these usually require the image to be intact for the program to read and transfer the data, there is always a possibility that this may still read the image even if it is not mountable in the operating system. These options are available in the **Images** menu. For resizing, you might want to try out the options for resizing just the partition, just the image, or both the image and partition since these will target different parts of the image structure.

3. Third-party utilities

As with hard-drive repair, you may have a little more success with using a third-party data recovery utility such as *Data Rescue*, *VirtualLab* or *Macintosh Data Recovery*. You'l find that these packages could work better than some others, which may require the image to be mounted, such as with the likes of *DiskWarrior* or *Drive Genius*.

You can also try converting the disk image to another format using the open-source *dmg2iso*. If you need them, there are also a variety of DMG converter utilities available, which you can search for using *VersionTracker*.

4. Mount with Toast

Sometimes the problem is with the disk image mounter not being able to handle the image structure, and a third-party solution that does not rely on the **diskimagemounter** tool may be more successful. The popular *Toast* image and disk-burning software and other third-party mounters may be successful when the system's tools are not.

Additionally, you might try mounting the image when booted into **Safe Mode** (hold ⇧ at startup), since this may disable programs and extensions that could interfere with the mounting process.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

option I've considered is to remove Windows XP from my hard drive after each use. That seems to be time consuming and excessive. Do you have any suggestions?
Babu

A Removing XP each time wouldn't help and in fact would actually make things worse, because you would be reinstalling an *unpatched* copy of Windows every time, complete with security loopholes and vulnerabilities that have been fixed in later patches.

But don't worry. As Windows installs go, yours would be relatively safe. If you aren't connected to the internet while you are running XP, there are far fewer opportunities for you to get infected or hacked. The number of exploits that affect OS X is so small that you can essentially discount it (whatever the antivirus vendors would like you to believe) and none of them would be able to cross-infect XP anyway.

In my view, the safest thing to do would be to connect to the internet from Windows, once a month or so, to run Windows Update but otherwise stay offline. If you want to be amazingly paranoid, you could actually create a copy of Windows that runs off a bootable CD or DVD. That would allow you to run your diagnostic software but because the CD would no longer be writable, there would be no way for Windows to be infected. You can download the software to let you do this from www.nu2.nu/pebuilder but really, the extra security you will get from this palaver is fairly marginal.

Why do I get disconnected from my network?

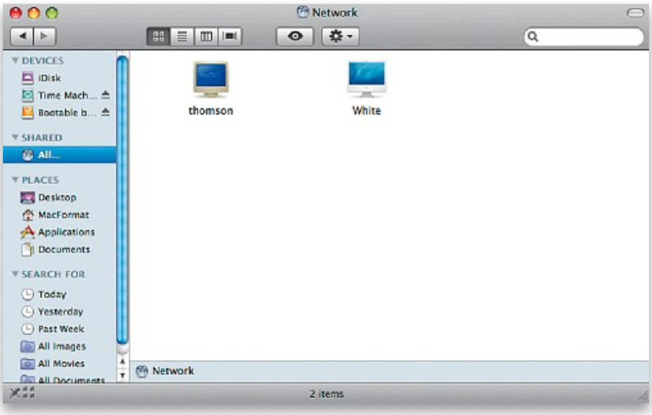
Q I have two Mac minis in a network, with a Motorola modem and a Belkin router. For several months I've been getting disconnected daily or several times daily. I shut down my computers and restart and everything works again. It's very annoying.
Luc Vandegaer

A The way to troubleshoot networks (and indeed, just about everything) is to try and reduce your configuration to the smallest system that still experiences the error. Are your minis connecting wirelessly? Try plugging one of them in with an Ethernet cable. Try taking the router out and just connecting a single Mac directly to the broadband modem. When you shut down the computers, are you turning off the router and modem too? If so, try just turning off the modem, because I don't think this is a problem with the Macs. When you get disconnected, is it just from the internet? Can the Macs still 'see' each other and exchange files? If you leave the modem off and just run the Macs on a LAN, do they remain connected?

The main possibilities here are a) a fault with your internet service (contact your ISP) b) a fault with the modem (check for firmware updates or replace the modem) c) a fault with the router (ditto). If you live somewhere remote and/or uncivilised, there is also a chance that your electricity supply is sufficiently noisy to be spiking your equipment so a surge protector for modem, router and Macs might help.

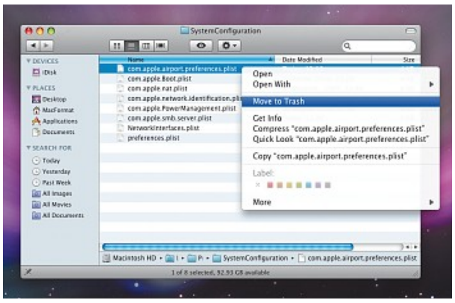
QUICK TIP

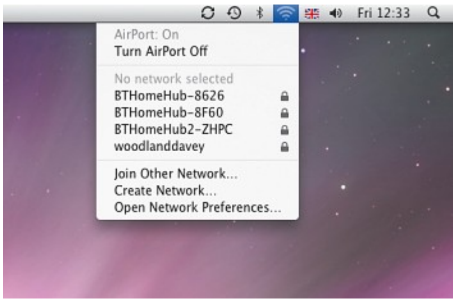
If you want to close an app but the **Force Quit** option doesn't appear when you right-click the icon on the Dock, hold down ⌥. This will change **Quit** into **Force Quit**.

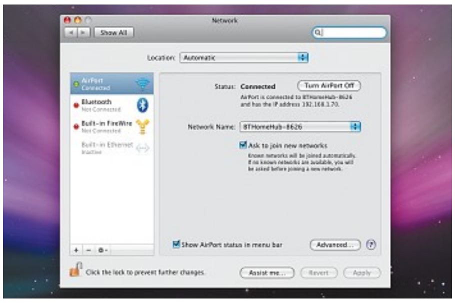


If machines on your LAN 'see' each other but you can't get online, it could be the ISP.

HOW TO / Reset your network connections


SystemConfiguration
DEVICES
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
com.apple.airport.preferences.plist
Open
Open With
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "com.apple.airport.preferences.plist"
Quick Look "com.apple.airport.preferences.plist"
Copy "com.apple.airport.preferences.plist"
Label:
More
1 of 8 selected, 92.93 GB available


Fri 12:33
AirPort: On
Turn AirPort Off
No network selected
BTHomeHub-8626
BTHomeHub-8F60
BTHomeHub2-ZHPC
woodlanddavey
Join Other Network…
Create Network…
Open Network Preferences…


Network
Show All
Location: Automatic
AirPort Connected
Bluetooth Not Connected
Built-in FireWire Not Connected
Built-in Ethernet
Status: Connected
Turn AirPort Off
Network Name: BTHomeHub-8626
Ask to join new networks
Show AirPort status in menu bar
Advanced…
Click the lock to prevent further changes.
Assist me…
Revert
Apply

01 Find the preferences

OS X saves wireless network and password details in **com.apple.airport.preferences.plist**. This is a preference file that applies to all accounts. Find it in Macintosh HD > Library > Preferences > System Configuration. Rename it or Trash.

02 Restart AirPort

When you reboot, AirPort will initially show as not connected on the menu bar. Right-clicking the **AirPort** icon will show a list of all networks in range. Note that all show as locked, even yours. This is because the password for your network is no longer stored.

03 Reconnect

Select the network name that corresponds to your wireless hub and enter the password. For BT broadband, this is printed on the back of the hub. OS X saves the name and password in a preference file and will automatically connect you from now on. ●

QUICK TIP

You can drag any image onto your *iChat* buddy's profile page and tick **Always use this picture**. *iChat* will now ignore whatever photo they have set for themselves. But this will only display at your end; they will never know!

My PowerPoint windows change size. Why?

Q I used to have a G4 laptop, and now have a MacBook Pro. I do a lot of *PowerPoint*-type presentations but after changing to the MacBook, found that when I connected to the projector the resolution of the computer screen would change to match, making the *PowerPoint* window too big for the screen. Even more annoyingly, the icon position didn't go back to normal when you disconnected. Is this an Intel Mac thing?

Rod Duncan

A It's more a function of the increased screen resolution of your new MacBook. Even the 13-inch MacBook Pro has a native resolution of 1,280x800 and most projectors use 1,024x768. This means that your display is changing resolution *and* aspect ratio. If you don't want to adjust your display properties each time, you could create a new user account for use with the projector. Set the display preferences to match the projector and share the folder containing your presentations so that they can be accessed there. With fast user switching enabled in System Preferences > Account, the disruption should be fairly minimal.

MACFIXIT TIPS / OS X 10.5.8 wireless problems

A workaround has cropped up for people who have been affected by wireless problems with the latest OS update. This workaround requires you to have a copy of an OS X 10.5.7 installation, so you can grab a few kernel extension files from it for use with 10.5.8.

We should warn that while this seems to get rid of the power-related glitches in AirPort connections, it is modifying your system in ways that may lead to other instabilities, so proceed at your own risk. This workaround is simple, so you should be able to easily undo it if instabilities arise.

The procedure

- Go to the System > Library > Extensions folder and copy the following items to your Desktop (or otherwise back them up): **AppleAirPort.kext** **IO80211Family.kext**
- Obtain a recent backup of your 10.5.7 installation (*Time Machine* or cloned disk).
- Find the same two files in the same location on the backup drive.
- Copy the files from the backup drive to the System > Library > Extensions > folder, replacing the current files in there.
- Reboot the computer.

This should clear the connectivity issues; however, since Apple specifically addressed AirPort incompatibilities with this update, there is chance that running the older kernel extension could lead to problems. As aforementioned, you can easily reverse this workaround if any issues arise.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

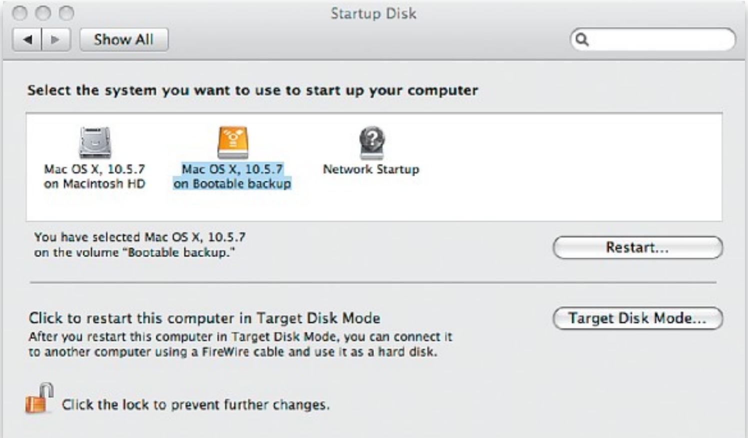
MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

Why has my Time Machine drive corrupted?

Q I have an Iomega 500GB HDD connected to my 24-inch iMac set up for *Time Machine*. About a month ago this stopped working. The Iomega HDD icon appears on the Desktop, but when I try to switch *Time Machine* on and select the Iomega drive, I get the following message: You do not have appropriate access privileges to save file .00224130db4e in the folder Iomega HDD. I am unable to find this file using *Finder* or Google.

Peter Marshall

A *Time Machine* uses the Media Access Control (MAC) address of your Mac to identify the volume. The MAC address is used to identify your computer on the network and it is hard-coded into your logic board. Every *Time Machine* volume will have a file



Select the system you want to use to start up your computer

You have selected Mac OS X, 10.5.7 on the volume "Bootable backup."

Click to restart this computer in Target Disk Mode

After you restart this computer in Target Disk Mode, you can connect it to another computer using a FireWire cable and use it as a hard disk.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Choose which drive to boot from, before you restart, using Startup preferences.

that begins with a dot and follows with the MAC address of the computer it is backing up. You can't find it with Google because the file name is different for every computer and you can't find it with *Finder* because the dot makes the file invisible.

You can view it with *Terminal* (which is in Applications > Utilities). Type:

```
ls -al /volumes/Time Machine
```

(Replace 'Time Machine' with the name of your *Time Machine* volume.)

If the file is there, you'll see a list of letters and dashes to the left of the file name. These are the file permissions: (r)ead, (w)rite, e(x)ecute or dash for no permission. The first permission is either a 'd' for a directory or a dash for a file. The others are in three groups that define the access for the **owner**, **group** and **other** categories of user. **Owner** is the person who created the file, **group** is the same as administrator on most systems and **other** is everyone else. The default permission for new files is -rwxr-xr-x, which means that you can do anything to the file and everyone else can only read or execute it.

If your *Time Machine* doesn't have at least -rw-rw-rw-, you'll need to do something about it:

```
Sudo chmod 777 /
volumes/your-volume-here/your-file-name-here
```

It's a heavy approach with a much higher level of permission than is probably necessary but on this file, it won't do any harm.

If it doesn't help, try deleting the file:

```
sudo rm /volumes/your-volume-here/
your-file-name-here
```

But, this will make *Time Machine* to snapshot the drive, which is slower.

Mac OS X Snow Leopard
The world's most advanced operating system. Finely tuned.
Mac OS X Snow Leopard

How do I choose the correct boot volume?

Q I'm excited about Snow Leopard's launch. My copy of Leopard is practically vanilla as I have resisted trial software or any software outside of *iWork* during the months I've had my iMac. I have installed *SuperDuper* and kept all *Time Machine* backups.Bill Gallop's article in *MF211* shows how to prepare but the bit that worries me is "use Disk Utility to repair privileges" (I know how to do this) "and then boot from another drive and choose the repair disk option".

Beverley

A If you hold ⌥ down while your Mac boots, you'll see a list of the available disk volumes. In your case, this will be your internal disk, which is probably called Macintosh HD, the *Time Machine* volume and the *SuperDuper* clone. Click this last one. It will boot from the external disk so you can repair the internal drive where you will be installing Snow Leopard. ●

Mac OS X Snow Leopard is finally here. Read our full review in the next issue.

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q A while back, I had an issue with *iTunes* folders that had different library files in, so I deleted the folders and started *iTunes* afresh. Up to now, it's been fine. However, the most annoying bug is back. After having *iTunes* open for a while, I click and hold to drag a file from one playlist to another, or even to the iPod, and all it does is highlight the song, sometimes turning the text blue. If I quit and re-open instantly, the problem is fixed for 10 mins.

Anybody have any ideas on what may be happening?

Daniel_Moore Joined: 19 May 2009 Posts: 170 Location: Lowestoft, Suffolk

A Whenever an app misbehaves (and this qualifies), trash its preference file and re-boot.

Ramaprem Joined: 28 Dec 2004 Posts: 1064 Location: Freiburg, Germany

Q My 2.16GHz 20-inch iMac has started to kernel panic when I play *World of Warcraft* on it. I've reinstalled the game, done an archive and reinstall of the OS (Leopard, patched up to 10.5) and tested it through *TechTool Deluxe*, *OnyX* and *Disk Utility*. No sign of any issues. But every time you bring up the game, on any Mac account and even from an external HD, kernel panics or reboot-required lockups.

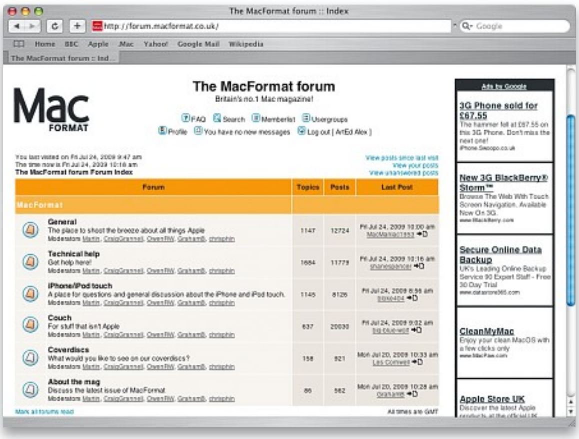
Spoogly Joined: 23 Oct 2007 Posts: 54

A Kernel panics are mostly due to bad RAM or a peripheral (including a cable). What seems difficult to diagnose is that it happens only during playing one particular game. My guess is that you have a bad RAM module, with the bad sector(s) getting into play only when this game is being played. Some sectors of RAM don't get used during ordinary use.

Ramaprem Joined: 28 Dec 2004 Posts: 1064 Location: Freiburg, Germany

A Thanks! Looks like it was a dislodged build-up of dust/unseating of memory that caused it. I took both bits of memory out, cleaned them, blew the dust out of the memory bays and replaced them. Everything's working fine for now!

Spoogly Joined: 23 Oct 2007 Posts: 54



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> *"Mac users are certainly not restricted to Apple's own displays"*
>
> **MONITORS GROUP TEST P104**

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Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Time Capsule's latest revision may not revolutionise this popular network-attached storage device, but it represents great value for money. Storage capacities have doubled in size with no increase in price, giving you 1TB and 2TB for £199 or £379 respectively. Plus it's now capable of simultaneous dual band, so you can use it to set up a high-speed 5GHz network, but still access it with 2.4GHz devices such as Wireless G mobile phones or internet radios. But there's one feature we're still crying out for...

Why has Apple never produced a Time Capsule with a built-in ADSL modem? Or failing that, offered a modem as an extra that could be connected to and powered by the Time Capsule? We realise ADSL is less popular in America, meaning routers have to be compatible with modems provided by US cable ISPs, but what about us Brits? An ADSL Time Capsule would be popular here. See our review of Time Capsule 2TB on page 93.

We also check out Apple's new versions of *Final Cut Studio* and *Logic Studio* over on pages 84 and 86 respectively.

>> OUR LOGOS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★ — A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.

Mac FORMAT Winner! — Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

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RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> VIDEO EDITOR

Apple Final Cut Studio

£799 Let's take a look at what's new in Final Cut Studio's cornerstone app, Final Cut Pro 7

CONTACTS

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/627635

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Mac **RAM:** 1GB RAM (4GB recommended) **Hard disk space**: 4GB of space for applications, 46GB for optional content Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ New ProRes formats
- ⊕ Can edit while exporting
- ⊕ Improved productivity
- ⊖ Lack of manuals
- ⊖ Some same functions as v1.0
- ⊖ Only compatible with Intel Macs

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Many welcome improvements to a powerful program, but other parts desperately need to be updated."

Apple's *Final Cut Pro* (*FCP*) is an amazing program that has grown in leaps and bounds since its humble beginnings in 1999. In fact, you can no longer purchase it on its own as it's now part of the *Final Cut Studio* suite, which includes *Motion*, *Compressor*, *Colour*, *Soundtrack Pro* and *DVD Studio Pro*, offering you nearly all the tools you need to make and distribute your very own film. *Version 3* of this collection has just been released and with it came *FCP 7.0*.

Is this the version of Final Cut that we've been waiting for?

One of the main advertised features of this new version is the inclusion of new formats. Two years ago, Apple introduced ProRes, which is an intermediate codec designed to retain as much of the quality of the original uncompressed video as possible. The camera's format may be ideal for capturing data but is far too complex to edit with, unless you have an incredibly powerful computer (as is the case for AVCHD). You now have no less than five versions of ProRes to choose from: ProRes Proxy is designed for offline work only; it's followed by ProRes LT, ProRes (the original from FCP6), ProRes HQ and finally ProRes 4:4:4:4.

If you use a device that records in AVC-Intra however – like Panasonic's P2-equipped broadcast cameras – you'll be pleased to learn that *FCP7* now supports that format natively, greatly speeding up ingest times and saving you a lot of disk space.

But what's it like to edit in *FCP7* compared to working in the previous incarnation? There are no new revolutionary features, but plenty of very useful tweaks and improvements to many existing functions. For instance, not only can you now colour-code your markers, you can even edit them without having to pause playback. This is done with a set of keyboard shortcuts: you can select the marker's colour on the fly by holding down ctrl and hitting one of the number keys (1 to 8). To edit markers as you go, add the ⌥ key to that combination.

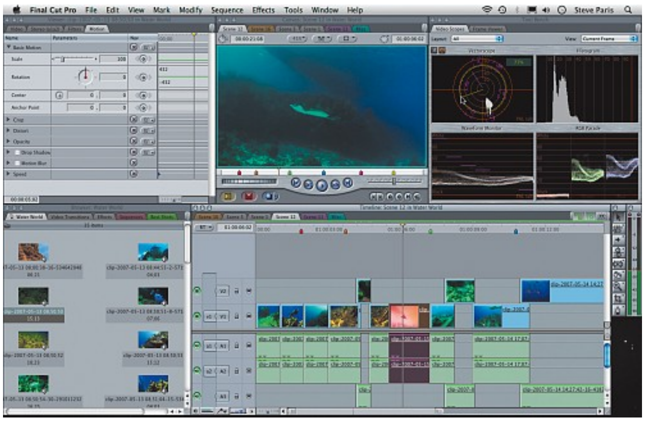
> *"There are no new revolutionary features, but plenty of very useful tweaks and improvements to many existing functions"*

Best of all, sequence markers aren't fixed but move as you add or delete clips. This is especially useful if you've placed down specific scoring or chapter markers that are dependent on a clip's location.

Tabs have also received a splash of colour, which is handy if you work with a lot of open sequences and docked bins. You can also reorder your tabs just like you can with *Safari*, and instruct *FCP* to close all but one of them rather than forcing you to close each individually as before.

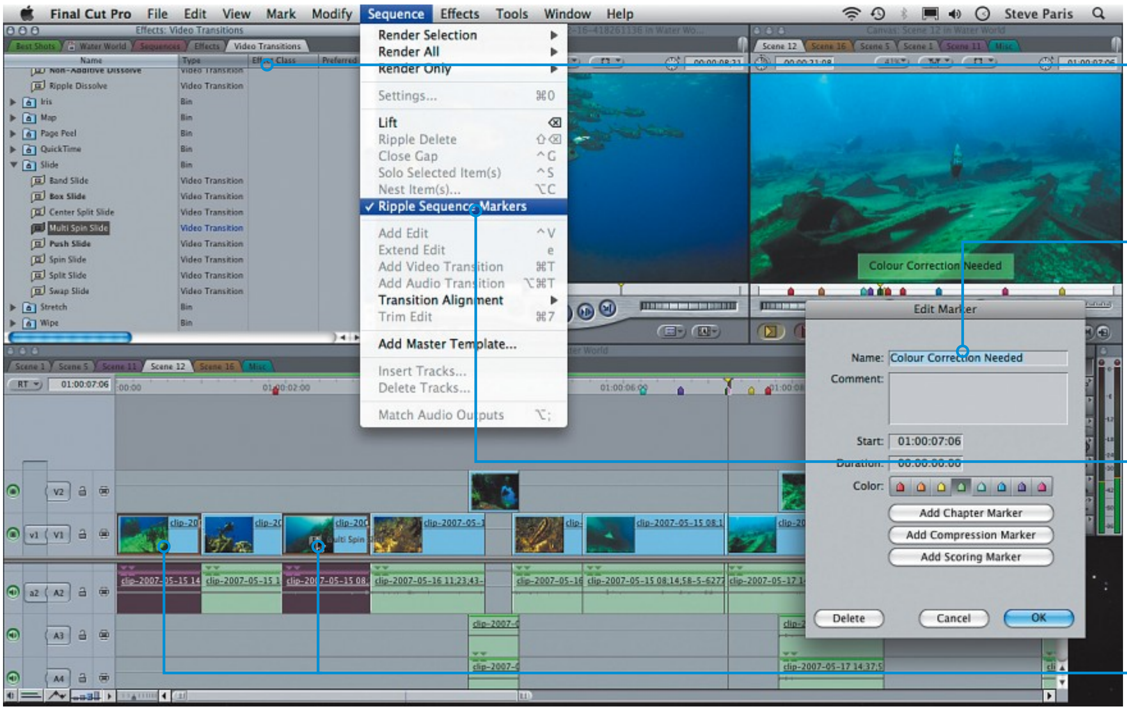
More improvements

There are a few other nice improvements, such as the ability to join all through edits in one go to clean up your sequence instead of having to do it manually, one at a time. You can also highlight all clips in your timeline that came from the same media file – a timesaver when you're ready to colour correct your work (highlight one and go to View > Reveal Affiliated Clips in Front Sequence).How you work with transitions has also changed. In the past, you had to add them one at a time. With *FCP7*, you can select multiple clips and apply the same transition to all of them in one go. A new type of transition has also been included called Alpha Transition (located in the Swipe folder). However, in order for you to start experimenting with it you must first go to www.apple.com/uk/finalcutstudio/resources/ and download more than 800MB for just



Aside from a few splashes of colour, the FCP interface remains unchanged and will feel completely familiar.

QUICK LOOK / Many improvements will help speed up your work


Final Cut Pro
File
Edit
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Steve Paris
Render Selection
Render All
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Settings...
Lift
Ripple Delete
Close Gap
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✓ Ripple Sequence Markers
Add Edit
Extend Edit
Add Video Transition
Add Audio Transition
Transition Alignment
Trim Edit
Add Master Template...
Insert Tracks...
Delete Tracks...
Match Audio Outputs
Colour Correction Needed
Edit Marker
Add Chapter Marker
Add Compression Marker
Add Scoring Marker
Delete
Cancel
OK

Name: Colour Correction Needed
Start: 01:00:07:06
Duration: 00:00:00:00

Flexible tabs
Colour-code tabs of your open sequences and docked bins. They can be reordered with ease by dragging them.

Marking time
Edit markers without pausing playback. You can also colour-code them.

Ripple markers
You can revert the moveable markers in the timeline to be static in this menu.

Transitions
To add the same transition to both ends of a clip, drag it onto the clip itself.

nine samples. However, it's a bit of a shame that they weren't included in the install discs.

Sadly, there have been no other noticeable changes to transitions. They're pretty much the same we've had since version 1.0. This also applies of *FCP*'s text tools. You could of course jump into *Motion* to design modern-looking effects, but this breaks the flow and takes a lot longer than just clicking on a few tickboxes, like you can with programs such as *Keynote* and even the latest *iMovie*, both of which make *FCP*'s text tools and transitions look antiquated.

Export bliss

The biggest improvement comes when you're ready to export your project: you'll find that *Compressor* no longer locks up *FCP*, which means you can carry on working while it does its thing in the background. Even better, there's now a new Share menu from which you can quickly select a device you'd like to prepare your footage for, be it an iPod, Apple TV or even YouTube and MobileMe. You can even create a DVD from there without ever having to open *DVD Studio Pro*, and this is the only place in the entire suite from which you can create a Blu-ray disc.

Don't expect some of *FCP*'s usual bugs to have been fixed though. For instance, if you accidentally or purposefully rename a clip in *Finder*, you'll sever its link with your project and you'll be forced to manually reconnect it. Why can't *FCP*'s browser work like Aliases in *Finder*?

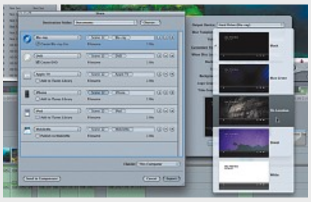
If you're fond of manuals, you'll also be in for a huge shock: they're gone. Apple used to include hundreds of pages of detailed instructions to help you understand this rather complex program. Now all you've got is a small booklet explaining the basics. This may be good for the environment, but they could have at least included them as PDFs, to help us out.

Solid update

Despite this issue with the instruction manual, *FCP7* is a solid update and the changes are very welcome indeed, but many parts of the interface are starting to feel old especially when compared to other Apple offerings. A major revamp is overdue. Let's hope we won't have to wait two years to see it.

Steve Paris

TOP 3 FEATURES / Updates to Final Cut

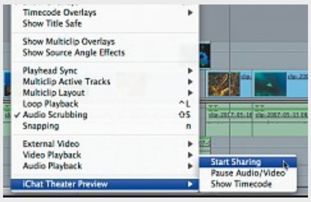


Partial Blu-ray support

Choose from a handful of menus to create a Blu-ray disc straight from within the **Share** menu. Sadly, there is no way to check the output as no software is capable of reading them on a Mac, yet.

Streamlined speed

The **Speed** tool has been streamlined. The **Viewer** window's **Time Graph** is just as flexible, but in the **Timeline**, you can now alter the **Time Speed Indicator** by dragging it.


Timecode Overlays
Show Title Safe
Show Multiclip Overlays
Show Source Angle Effects
Playhead Sync
Multiclip Active Tracks
Multiclip Layout
Loop Playback
✓ Audio Scrubbing
Snapping
External Video
Video Playback
Audio Playback
iChat Theater Preview
Start Sharing
Pause Audio/Video
Show Timecode

Worldwide collaboration

If you're collaborating on a project, the support for *iChat Theatre* enables you to share the **Canvas** window with anyone, anywhere. The image quality depends on your internet connection.

>> MUSIC SOFTWARE STUDIO

Apple Logic Studio

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£399 The latest version of Apple's music software studio is finally here…

CONTACTS

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/625541

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Mac **RAM:** 1GB (2GB recommended) **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later **Display:** 1,280x800 resolution **Disk space:** 9GB **Other:** QuickTime 7.6 or later, DVD drive for installation

PROS & CONS

- ✚ A powerful music studio
- ✚ Superb audio-editing features
- ✚ Great tools for guitarists
- ✚ Useful for live performances
- ✚ Good value for money
- ━ Some minor bugs in the release

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This app offers comprehensive and groundbreaking professional recording features at a fair price."

Logic Studio
Logic
MacBook Pro

The rumours are true - Logic Studio is finally here!

Although rumours of a new version of *Logic Studio* have been buzzing around Apple forums for the past six months, its sudden arrival has come as something of a surprise. There was a lot of talk of a beta version of the app that boasted "superior audio-editing features" and "a breathtaking range of new instruments and effects", so were any of these rumours actually true?

Well, *Logic Pro 9*, the latest version of Apple's top-of-the-line music software program, and the main focal point of *Logic Studio*, does indeed boast some significant updates aimed at users interested in audio editing, music production, guitar recording and live performance.

Flex Time

Logic Pro 9 introduces *Flex Time*, a new collection of features that enables you to manipulate timing and tempo quickly and intuitively. With the new **Flex Tool** you can push audio around with your mouse by clicking and dragging a waveform. You can use it to correct dodgy timing in an audio performance or 'quantize' the timing to a groove. There's also a **Varispeed** feature that allows you to slow down an entire multi-track project effortlessly – audio files and all – without changing the pitch. This is particularly useful if you want to record a challenging part at a more comfortable tempo that suits you.

GarageBand users will be delighted to hear that their projects will open up in *Logic Pro 9* and *Logic Express 9*. They can continue working on them with the option of adding better instruments and effects plus superior editing and mixing facilities. 20,000 **Apple Loops** and six **Jam Packs** are also included.

At the more professional end of the musical spectrum, *Logic Pro 9* introduces a host of new production tools including: **Selective Track Import**, for transferring setups and track content between different projects; **Drum Replacer**, for replacing or doubling unsatisfactory drum tracks with triggered samples; **Convert To Sampler Track**, for turning an audio region into a sampler instrument with a MIDI track to trigger it; and **Bounce In Place**, which makes effects-rendering much quicker and far easier.

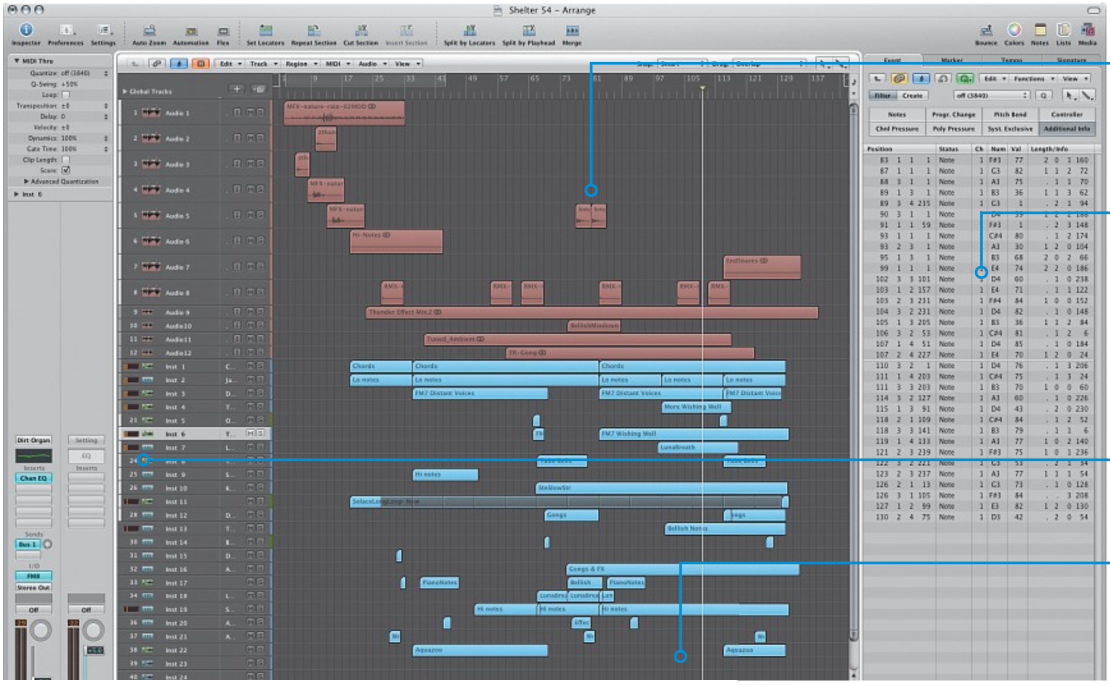
> *"Logic Pro 9 introduces new features that lets you manipulate timing and tempo quickly and intuitively"*

And for guitarists, *Logic Pro 9* introduces **Amp Designer**, a virtual guitar rig consisting of 25 amps, 25 virtual speaker cabinets and three virtual microphones. These can be freely mixed and matched according to taste, and a microphone's orientation and distance from the speaker cone can be adjusted. In addition, a virtual 'pedalboard' can be used to create many popular effects including overdrive, distortion, delay, flange and chorus. Hundreds of 'out of the can' presets are included.

But, of course, *Logic Studio* isn't just about *Logic Pro 9*. It also includes two other major music applications: *MainStage 2*, a virtual live performance rig aimed at rehearsals and live gigs, and *Soundtrack Pro 3*, a multi-track audio studio for video production. *MainStage 2* handily lets you use *Logic*'s instruments and effects in a live context. The latest version now features two great new plug-ins called *Playback* (which provides musicians with a virtual backing band, allowing them to perform with pre-recorded audio), and *Loopback* (which allows musicians to record, layer and jam along with their own performances).

Logic Pro's performance is now better than ever before. Check out the sampler loading times!

QUICK LOOK / The Arrange Window interface



Main play area
See the tracks in your project. A marker moves across as the piece plays.

List area
A list of all of the events in a selected track. The events can be modified or deleted.

Track details
Details about selected tracks including any effects used on them.

Transport bar
This houses the transport controls (including **Play**, **Record**, **Pause** and **Stop**).

Soundtrack Pro is for synchronising music scores to video. *Version 3* adds new audio-editing tools including Voice Level Match, which corrects mismatched voice levels by extracting volume information from the vocal content of one clip and applying it to another. A new Advanced Time Stretch feature stretches and compresses audio with precision, while an enhanced File Editor includes new tools to make sophisticated edits and fine-tune volume adjustments.

Up and running

Installation of *Logic Studio* is straightforward, although it can take some time if you want to install all of the apps and required content (9GB) plus any additional content (up to 38GB!). It requires Mac OS X 10.5.7, which leaves all Panther and Tiger users out in the cold.

Once launched, *Logic Pro 9* looks reassuringly familiar, although you'll notice a few different buttons and minor cosmetic differences around the Arrange Window. The Flex Tool is a joy to use on out-of-time vocal tracks – you simply click on the audio region you want to edit, select the Flex Tool via the Tool button and click the beginning of a word to move its starting point to a desired location. A word or phrase can also be lengthened or shortened by dragging the mouse. The Auto Quantize feature is a useful tool too, making it easy to synchronise material that would previously have been unsyncable to your track.

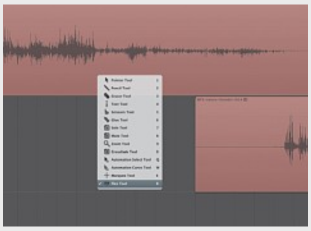
Authentic sound

The guitar amps and effects sound authentic and sit well in a mix. And Logic's regular instruments and effects are all present and performing well – in fact, the EXS24 sampler now loads presets at a lightning-fast speed. None of our Audio Unit instruments (AUs) was affected by the program. *Mainstage 2* and *Soundtrack Pro 3* are both useful and easy to use.

Overall, the new *Logic Studio* offers exceptional flexibility and value for Mac musicians. It's also a great choice for *GarageBand* users who want to take their music to the next level, as well as guitarists who want to buy a serious music software studio.

Cliff Douse

TOP 3 FEATURES / MAKE MUSIC BETTER



Flex Tool

You can use the **Flex Tool** to manipulate the timing of audio files quickly by dragging with the mouse. You can also use this tool to generate completely new vocal and instrument phrases or special effects.

Guitar Gear

Logic Pro 9 comes with an arsenal of tools that would keep most guitarists happy. These include virtual amps, cabs, microphones and effects. You can mix and match them and choose from hundreds of presets.

MainStage 2

The latest version of *MainStage* features two new plug-ins, *Playback* and *Loopback*, that allows you to play along with pre-recorded audio or your own performances. It's great for playing live without a band!

>> WORD PROCESSOR

The Soulmen Ulysses 2

€44.99 Writers: set aside Word! There's a better way!

CONTACTS

Developer: The Soulmen
www.the-soulmen.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/629796

REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.5

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Admirable focus on writing
- ⊕ Flexible with accessible options
- ⊖ Takes some getting used to
- ⊖ Only opens one project at a time

VERDICT

★★★★☆

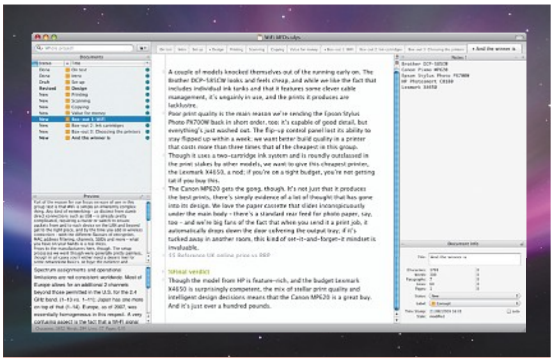
"We prefer Scrivener, but Ulysses 2.0 is a brilliant, spare application."

When the first version of *Ulysses* appeared five years ago, it caused a stir with writers. Good though apps such as *Word* are, they have limitations as they focus on creating individual, linear documents, and there's a tension between ease of use in just bashing down words, and how much time you waste fooling about with fonts and page layout concerns.

Ulysses, by contrast, removes styling altogether but you can use a kind of markup language to tag sections with format-like styles, though the emphasis is more on structure than aesthetics. This app throws you into the idea of a project rather than a document. A project contains as many documents as you like – but, you can't organise them into a hierarchy. Although the new **Collections** and **Filters** in a way exceed some of the functions of true folder-like hierarchy – and each document has a notes field attached. Documents can have statuses applied to them – draft, final, and more, including custom tags – and you can use one of the panes to see other documents and notes while still working on another. Or, if you prefer, **Full-screen** mode removes distractions.

The new version adds flexibility and is easier to access. Little additions, such as bookmarks and screencasts make the whole package feel tighter, and bigger things – such as projects templates – are welcome. Still, *Scrivener* is cheaper and still just has the edge in terms of polish and ease of use.

Christopher Phin



A couple of models knocked themselves out of the running early on. The Brother DCP-585CW looks and feels cheap, and while we like the fact that includes individual ink tanks and that it features some clever cable management, it's ungainly in use, and the prints it produces are lacklustre.

Poor print quality is the main reason we're sending the Epson Stylus Photo PX700W back in short order, too: it's capable of good detail, but everything's just washed out. The flip-up control panel lost its ability to stay flipped up within a week: we want better build quality in a printer that costs more than three times that of the cheapest in this group.

Though it uses a two-cartridge ink system and is roundly outclassed in the print stakes by other models, we want to give this cheapest printer, the Lexmark X4650, a nod: if you're on a tight budget, you're not getting tat if you buy this.

The Canon MP620 gets the gong, though. It's not just that it produces the best prints, there's simply evidence of a lot of thought that has gone into its design. We love the paper cassette that slides inconspicuously under the main body – there's a standard rear feed for photo paper, say, too – and we're big fans of the fact that when you send it a print job, it automatically drops down the door sheltering the output tray; if it's tucked away in another room, this kind of set-it-and-forget-it mindset is invaluable.

££ Reference UK online price vs RRP

Final verdict

Though the model from HP is feature-rich, and the budget Lexmark X4650 is surprisingly competent, the mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy. And it's just over a hundred pounds.

Ulysses looks similar to Scrivener, though it lacks storyboarding tools.

>> PRESENTATION TO PODCAST TOOL

Humble Daisy ProfCast

$60 (£37) A tool to help you create podcasts from your presentations and upload them

CONTACTS

Developer: Humble Daisy
www.profcast.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/627343

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: PowerPC G4 667MHz or greater **RAM:** 256MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4.x or later **HD space:** 500MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Slick interface
- ⊕ Flexible
- ⊕ Easy to use
- ⊖ A touch expensive

VERDICT

★★★★☆

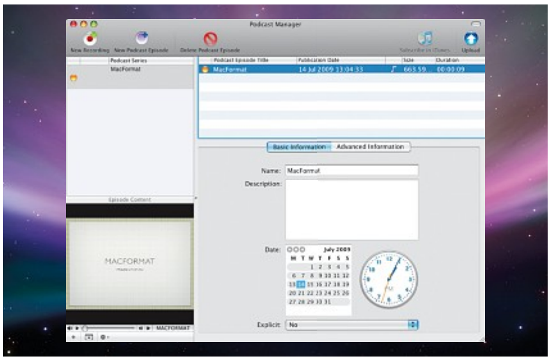
"ProfCast will enable you to make lots of decent presentations at less cost."

Making podcasts is a simple process, all you have to do is fire up *GarageBand* and get talking. However, as with most things achieving a high-quality result requires a little more application. It's not just the audio you need to worry about anymore, as visuals are taking an increasingly important role in the podcast world. If you give presentations regularly or are a user of *Keynote* you'll know just how great it is for making stunning-looking slides. *ProfCast* allows you to take your presentation and publish it as a podcast in a variety of formats. This means you don't have to learn a new podcast app and can keep a uniform style to your lectures or presentations whether they're given in person or distributed over the internet.

ProfCast is essentially a conversion utility with a podcast-specific slant. It does its job well and if you use *Keynote* or *PowerPoint* on a regular basis then it makes turning your presentations into podcasts simple. You can start your podcasting empire easily and the way it allows you to publish to a variety of places makes *ProfCast* very flexible.

However, we think it's a touch on the expensive side. But, there is a free trial version you can download. As for making your life easier then *ProfCast* certainly does, but only if you're going to be regularly producing podcasts of your presentations. For a one-off or irregular production schedule *Keynote* and *GarageBand* are more than likely going to suit.

Christopher Brennan



Podcast Episode Title	Publication Date	Size	Duration
MacFormat	14 Jul 2009 13:04:33	663.59...	00:00:09

Name: MacFormat
Description:
Date: July 2009
Explicit: No

The main interface lets you manage all presentations easily.

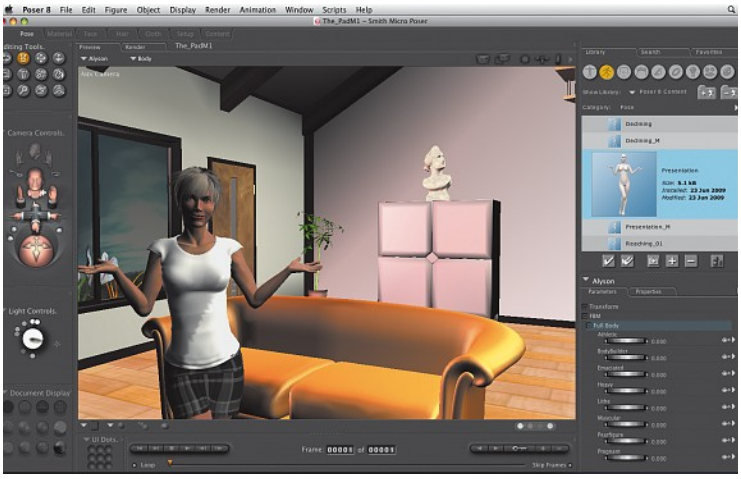
>> 3D FIGURE CREATION

Poser 8

$250 (£154) The leading figure-posing package gets a makeover and the ability to search for content

Despite *Poser*'s long history – (it's now 12 years old, with five separate publishers over the years) it seems there's still plenty to be done with the popular figure-posing package. Last year, current owner Smith Micro unveiled a *Pro* edition of the software, with network rendering and direct links into professional 3D-modelling software. *Poser 8* doesn't offer those functions, but it does provide plenty of fresh ideas to entice newcomers and jaded long-term users.

The surprises in *Poser 8* begin as soon as you run the software: the quirky-but-functional user interface, which has been in place for most of the software's history, has been replaced with a far more conventional style. It's easy on the eye, with sober greys reminding you of one of Apple's design programs, and the tool palettes occupy less screen space than previously so that the Preview window is a decent size, even on a smaller monitor.


Poser 8 File Edit Figure Object Display Render Animation Window Scripts Help
The_PadM1 – Smith Micro Poser

Poser 8 features a brand-new sleek user interface with a much larger Preview window.

In the Library

The Library, which provides access to *Poser 8*'s generous 4GB of bundled content and any third-party content you buy via the integrated online store, also sports a new design. Tracking down the item you want has never been much in *Poser*, and the approach here, similar to the List view in *Finder*, still demands lots of patient scrolling around. What a relief, then, to discover a brand-new tab next to the Library: Search.

> *"Poser 8 provides fresh ideas to entice newcomers and jaded long-term users… The surprises begin as soon as you run it"*

At last, you can simply type in the name of the item you want, click Search, and choose it from a results list. The feature is a bit sluggish in use, and a facility to add your own searchable descriptive tags to assets would make it more effective, but even this implementation is a clear move in the right direction.

The confidence projected through the new interface is reflected in *Poser 8*'s technical changes. Most tools feel more responsive, while the in-screen preview shows the effect of lights better, although it's still not accurate enough. Rendering is also improved, with indirect lighting adding detail to shadows that used to require lots of trial and error to achieve.

Smith Micro has also created new figures: a male and a female, each in four racial variations. The emphasis on realism in Ryan and Alyson has mixed results: general proportions are good, but details such as the fold of the armpit area are unconvincing. The coming months will determine their real value, as content merchants decide whether they want to use Ryan and Alyson for their latest character and clothing designs.

Noticeable mprovements

With overhauls above and below the surface, *Poser 8* is a marked improvement over previous releases. Smith Micro has taken the same approach in *Poser 8* that Apple has taken with Snow Leopard: there are relatively few brand-new tools, but there's been lots of tuning up to make what's there easier for newcomers to get into. It's more pleasant for regular users and more capable of good-quality renders with less fiddling. It'll be fascinating to see how Smith Micro builds on this solid foundation.

There's a sting in the tale for existing *Poser* owners, though. An upgrade to *Poser 8*, even for owners of the most recent release, costs $130 (£80) – more than half the cost of buying the package new. *Poser Pro* owners can get *Poser 8* for the same price, although the changes in *Poser 8* will be reflected in *Poser Pro 2010*, which is due out later in the year.

Richard Hill

CONTACTS

Developer: Smith Micro Software
www.smithmicro.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/627347

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: 700MHz PowerPC G4 or Intel **RAM:** 512MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

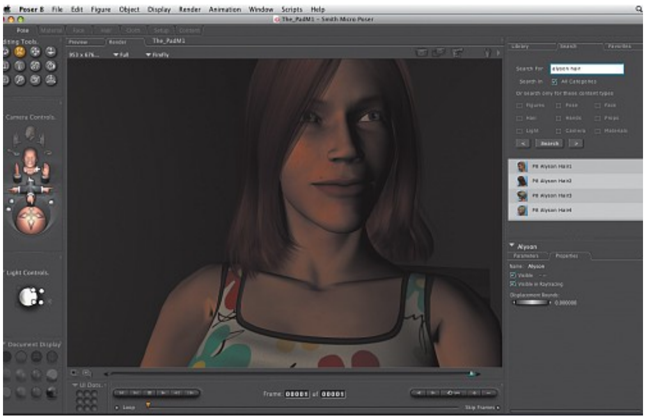
- ⊕ Greatly improved interface
- ⊕ Content search facility
- ⊕ Improved rendering quality
- ⊕ Loads of content included
- ⊖ Expensive upgrade pricing
- ⊖ Search could be faster

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Many of Poser's flaws are addressed in an update that's easier and faster to use."

The new Search facility enables you to locate figures, clothing and props far more quickly.


Poser 8 File Edit Figure Object Display Render Animation Window Scripts Help
The_PadM1 – Smith Micro Poser

>> WEB BROWSER

Stainless 0.6.5

£FREE Chrome-like multi-process web browsing comes to the Mac

>> ON THE DISC
You can find all these programs on the disc.

CONTACTS

Developer: Mesa Dynamics, LLC
www.stainlessapp.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/627145

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5

PROS & CONS

⊕ Fast and efficient
⊕ Multi-process
⊕ Parallel sessions
⊖ Light on features

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Multi-process architecture and parallel sessions make up for lack of features."

There's no doubt that you will now know about *Chrome*, Google's web browser. Although it uses the same underlying engine as *Safari*, it offers a major innovation not present in Apple's browser: independent tab processes. In plain English, this means if a tab crashes, the rest soldier on – great for anyone who regularly uses online apps.

With Google taking an age to bring *Chrome* to the Mac, Mesa Dynamics started work on a technology demo to showcase its own multi-processing architecture, and this evolved into *Stainless*, which has a major innovative feature of its own. Along with *Chrome*-like independent tab processes, *Stainless* offers parallel sessions, enabling you to log in to a site with multiple identities, (to work with multiple Twitter accounts, for example). This is done in a simple manner, via single-session tabs differentiated by italicised labels.

Elsewhere, *Stainless* apes *Chrome*'s streamlined nature, but perhaps a little too much. It's efficient and fast, but feature-light, lacking accessible history, address bar auto-complete and standard bookmarking (instead of a list, you get a shelf, which houses groups of favicons – fine for a few shortcuts, but awkward when you've hundreds).

iPhone 3G S
The fastest, most powerful iPhone yet.
Voice Control

Stainless already impresses and its parallel sessions are very useful.

It's worth remembering, though, that it's early days for *Stainless*. The developers promise regular updates, and a feature-complete 1.0 release. We await this with bated breath – if this early version is anything to go by, *Stainless* could become the Mac's top browser.

Craig Grannell

>> ICON CREATOR

Img2icns Pro 1.1

$13 (£8) Give your Desktop personalised icons

Latest price on TechRadar www.techradar.com/627157

Although fully fledged icon organisation apps like Panic's *CandyBar* exist, a simpler utility often suits. We've long been fans of *Img2icns* – an efficient drag-and-drop app for creating icons – so we were keen to try out the new version.

On launch, it's clear the application has had a major design refresh – it now looks better and is simpler to use. As before, you drag items to the app's well and receive export options (folders, ICNS files, iPhone icons, favicons), or you can apply the previewed icon to an item by dragging a file from *Finder* to the preview. It's also possible to do reverse conversions – drop an icon onto the well and you can output it as a PNG, TIFF or GIF.

This release also retains icon history, and items can be dragged from the History window to *Finder* or exported via one click. For anyone who regularly creates icons, this feature alone should justify the app's price. For the occasional user, the free version still export ICNS and folder icons, and applies icons to files. For more info see www.img2icnsapp.com.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"This is a great, simple and really efficient utility for working with icons."

>> INSTANT MESSAGING CLIENT

Nimbuzz 0.95.1

£FREE Will this instant messenger create a buzz?

Latest price on TechRadar www.techradar.com/627168

New applications will inevitably get compared to the competition. But if existing rivals are of a high-enough quality, it's hard for a newcomer to make an impression. And so it is with *Nimbuzz*, a multi-service instant-messaging application that pales beside the superior *Adium*.

In use, we found *Nimbuzz* awkward and not entirely stable – the app crashed a couple of times during setup and didn't pick up contacts from some services until the app was restarted. The interface, while simple on the surface, lacks options. Even rearranging groups within the contact list appears impossible, and anyone hankering after the under-the-hood flexibility of *Adium* will be disappointed.

Bundled VoIP and Growl support, along with the fact that it basically works, ensures *Nimbuzz* isn't a disaster, but we'd rather stick with *Adium* and *Skype*. For now, *Nimbuzz* resembles a Mac app, but in use feels more like a clunky mobile app with many shortcomings. Head to www.nimbuzz.com for more on this app.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"Nimbuzz isn't terrible, but there's very little to recommend it over its rivals."

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>>MICRO AMPLIFIER

Radiopaq Sound Jacket

£70 It improves your iPod nano's sound, but is it worth the price?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Radiopaq
www.radiopaq.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/629807

SPECIFICATIONS

Requires: iPod nano 4G
Dimensions: 10.9x5x1cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Warmer, more complete sound
- ⊕ Improves bass reproduction
- ⊖ Adds bulk to the iPod form factor
- ⊖ Only for the nano 4G

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"It's great for badly-encoded MP3s, but expensive and bulky."

Radiopaq says its Sound Jacket "acts like a graphic equaliser that automatically adjusts itself continuously to best suit the music that is being played". In other words, it means it can restore the detail and depth that's often lost during compression.

Snugly housing your nano 4G without obscuring its controls or screen, it connects through your iPod's dock connector and offers a port in its base so you can charge and sync without removing it. Plug the earbuds into the Sound Jacket and they offer controls to adjust the volume and the level of influence. It's powered through the iPod, so no batteries are required.

Sound Jacket certainly does an excellent job in revitalising harshly encoded MP3s. It makes for a warmer, richer and more complete sound, especially regarding bass reproduction, which is much more to the fore when using the device (some might find it a little too bass-saturated). But this increase in sound quality comes at a price.

The thin iPod nano is considerably bulkier when it's slotted into the Sound Jacket, which is a significant drawback considering its small form factor is one of the nano's main selling points. You can certainly kiss goodbye to third-party peripherals such as carry cases, though it still fits most speaker sets because there's a dock adaptor on the bottom of the Radiopaq. As you might expect, the Sound Jacket does a lot less for music that's encoded at a higher bit-rate setting. So, surely encoding music at a higher rate to start with makes more sense than spending £70 on a micro amp that bulks up your nano?

Ian Osborne

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
MENU
Radiopaq

Are the sound improvements worth the extra bulk?

>>iPOD SPEAKER SET

Boston Acoustics Horizon i-DS^2

£150 This stylish iPod dock has great connectivity options.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Boston Acoustics
www.bostonacoustics.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/629819

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: 3.5-inch **Max output:** 60w **Inputs**: iPod dock, aux line-in
Dimensions: 14x32.4x14.8cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Feature rich
- ⊕ Excellent bass response
- ⊖ Less capable treble
- ⊖ Airplane Mode required

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A stylish and capable dock with great connectivity options."

The Horizon i-DS^2 takes a minimalist approach to the iPod speaker set, but this doesn't mean it lacks features. It boasts a USB port so you can connect to your Mac and manage your iPod's music while it's docked, a Video Out port for viewing photos or videos on your TV, and Aux In for connecting any audio device with a 3.5mm socket. Power and volume buttons are positioned on both the device and the hand controller, which also adds mute, pause and track skip functions.

As you'd expect from an iPod speaker dock, the i-DS^2 powers any device that charges through a USB cable. FireWire-charged iPods can be docked but not powered or charged, and iPhones must be put in Airplane Mode. It also lacks a headphone socket for private listening.

The i-DS^2's straight-down-the-line approach limits your hands-on control over the sound but, thankfully, audio quality is great out of the box. It's ideal for those who like lots of bass, though is slightly less capable in the treble department. Unfortunately it's a little overpriced, especially compared to Boston's own Duo-i, which can be bought for under £130 and includes an AM/FM clock radio and manual bass and treble adjustment.

Sonically, the Horizon i-DS^2 isn't quite up to the standards set by the Yamaha PDX-30 reviewed last issue, but it offers a much better range of connectivity options. It's ideal for setting up next to your Mac or television, and it's stylish enough not to embarrass either.

Ian Osborne

Mac Format This Week

Sleek and attractive, you can even buy different-coloured grilles to match your décor.

With this capacity upgrade, you now get twice as much storage for your money.

>> WIRELESS BACKUP DEVICE

Apple Time Capsule 2TB

£379 A welcome capacity increase gives you twice as much bang for your buck

Time Capsule is a hard drive and AirPort Extreme Base Station in one box, functioning as a wireless and Ethernet router as well as a backup device. A recent capacity upgrade now gives you 1TB for £199 (was 500GB), or 2TB for £379 (previously 1TB). It offers three Ethernet LAN and one WAN port for connection to a modem to get online.

Most UK users would prefer a built-in ADSL modem, but doing it this way means cable subscribers can use it with the modem supplied by their ISP. It's wireless n compatible and can access the 2.4 and 5GHz wavebands simultaneously, so you can set up a network on the 5GHz band and access it with wireless g devices, which are only capable of connecting on 2.4GHz.

But it's as a backup device that Time Capsule really shines. It's easy to configure, and it can back up every computer on your network using *Time Machine*. After an initial backup *Time Machine,* keeps hourly incremental backups for the past 24 hours, daily backups for the last month and weekly backups until your disk is full, which takes a long time with 2TB to play with. You can also share an external hard drive or printer with the rest of your network by connecting it to Time Capsule's USB port.

As the initial backup has to copy your entire hard drive (and Mac-formatted external drives if applicable), it is likely to take a good few hours. It's best to use an Ethernet connection for this lengthy first step, even if you want to back up wirelessly afterwards. Unfortunately Apple's otherwise excellent setup assistant won't show you how to do this. Also, data backed up onto Time Capsule is freely available to any computer on the network, not just the machine that was backed up. This lack of security could be problematic even in a home environment.

> *"With the new 2TB capacity upgrade, there's never been a better time to buy a Time Capsule"*

Minor criticisms aside, this is an excellent product. It might sacrifice configurability for simplicity, but that's exactly what many home users want. And with the new capacity upgrade, there's never been a better time to buy a Time Capsule.

Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/629850

SPECIFICATIONS

Wireless range: 200-540Mbps
Interfaces: 1x Ethernet WAN, 3x Ethernet LAN, USB, 802.11n

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Very easy to use
- ⊕ Lots of storage space
- ⊕ Simultaneous dual band
- ⊖ No modem

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A terrific capacity increase. Now let's have one with a modem in it."

>>DOCUMENT SCANNER

Fujitsu ScanSnap S1500M

£486 A speedy but expensive solution for loose-sheet document scanning

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Fujitsu
www.fujitsu.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/628935

SPECIFICATIONS

Optical res: 600dpi (colour) and 1,200dpi (B&W) **Transparency support?:** No **ADF:** 50 pages

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Very fast
- ⊕ Meaty auto-feeder
- ⊕ Good quality scans
- ⊖ Loose sheets only

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's not cheap, but you're getting a very capable machine for your money."

Fujitsu's ScanSnap S1500M is not a jack-of-all-trades designed to fulfil all your scanning needs, but if you regularly scan large, unbound documents, it could make your life easier.

It's capable of scanning both sides of a page in a single pass, and offers four image settings with resolutions of up to 600dpi in colour or 1,200dpi in black and white. It can handle documents from business card to A4 in size, with variable compression options. Scanned files can be saved as PDFs or JPEGs, and can be automatically emailed, printed, converted to Microsoft *Word* or *Excel* documents or imported into *iPhoto*.

Scanning speed is blisteringly fast. At the highest quality setting, it scanned our 16-page full-colour company magazine in one minute, 14 seconds, which is very agreeable considering the resolutions used. 12 single-sided greyscale A4 pages scanned in 35 seconds at 150dpi. Image quality is excellent, offering crisp, clear text and faithful image reproduction at the higher quality settings.

As you'd expect, the ScanSnap S1500M is only capable of scanning loose sheets, not books or bound documents. The aforementioned magazine had to be cut down the spine before scanning. Staples and paperclips must be removed, and previously-stapled pages must be checked to ensure they're not still fastened together. Even so, if you do a lot of loose-document scanning, this machine's for you. It's fast, capable and very space-efficient.

Ian Osborne

The S1500M takes its aesthetic influences from desktop inkjet printers of old...

>>MONO LASER PRINTER

Lexmark E260dn

£230 You can't beat a laser printer for text quality on plain paper, and this one's a beaut!

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Lexmark
www.lexmark.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/628952

SPECIFICATIONS

Printing tech: Laser **Res:** 2,400dpi **Inks:** Mono **Paper capacity:** 250 sheets **Dimensions:** 26x40.6x37cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Cheap to run
- ⊕ Easy to set up (Bonjour-aware)
- ⊕ Excellent text quality
- ⊖ Simple feature set

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"With duplex and Ethernet, this is excellent for a small workgroups."

When reviewing inkjet printers, we'll often call the output 'laser-sharp'; that's because laser technology still gives phenomenal results, especially for text, and especially on standard 80gsm (grams per square metre) paper. Add in rock-bottom running costs, and it's clear that the humble mono laser still has a place, particularly in businesses.

Lexmark is often fairly criticised for the quality of its inkjet prints, but it produces cracking lasers. The styling's sober, but the engine underneath is capable of great results.

There's little difference – either in terms of speed and quality – when switching between 600, 1,200 (the default) and 2,400dpi, but text quality on plain paper trounces inkjets. Image quality is less impressive – especially with detail in shadows which tend to get lost to black – but it's competent enough.

It belts through pages too – taking just 45 secs for a 20-page text document – and isn't sluggish at getting the first page out. Duplex is supported for two-sided printing, and the same document, printed duplex, completed in one minute and 20 seconds.

PostScript is supported – good for design pros, though the 32MB RAM would choke on big jobs – and while the 250-sheet paper drawer is small, you at least can add an optional 550-sheet drawer.

With USB and Ethernet ports, the E260dn is ideal for small workgroup or personal use; it lacks some features like PIN-protected printing and job storing, but it's capable of great prints.

Christopher Phin

Beneath the sombre exterior is a fast, capable engine.

It's easy to hook your index finger behind the big button's chin so you can press it with your thumb.

>> IN-CAR iPHONE SOLUTION

Belkin TuneBase FM with Hands-Free

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£56 Want an integrated car system for your iPhone without buying a Merc? Belkin has the very thing!

There's no substitute for a manufacturer-fitted iPod/iPhone system for your car; built-in holders, 30-pin dock connectors, track info and album artwork on the dash – the works. Sadly, though, proper integration remains the preserve of luxury brands or at least high-end models in manufacturers' lines, but Belkin has the answer for the rest of us.

Though you can use this system with any iPod, it's designed for the iPhone, and the beauty is that it pretty much does everything you want. Of course, it charges your iPhone, so you arrive with a fully-charged device. (It even boasts a USB port on the stalk, so you can still plug in, say, your sat-nav as well as charging your iPhone.)

Its main feature, though, is an FM transmitter, broadcasting your iPhone's music to your car's stereo. It's smart, scanning the airwaves to pick one that's clear of interference. The frequency is then displayed on the (rotatable) screen, and you just have to tune your car's stereo to that frequency. (Nice touch: RDS-capable stereos display the station name as 'TuneBase'.) FM's a bit clunky for this, and on long journeys you may find you have to rescan and retune a few times; audio quality's pretty clean, and there's a 3.5mm jack for optional direct connection. A large button – with a handy chin that lets you grip and press it easily – lets you play/pause, skip and backtrack with the same clicks you'd be used to on the iPhone headset, and it even lets you do Voice Control on an iPhone 3GS. It can struggle to pick up your voice clearly enough, especially at motorway speeds, but it can work.

> *"The beauty of the Belkin TuneBase FM is that it pretty much does everything you could want it to"*

Lastly, it lets you do hands-free calling, pausing any playing music when a call comes in, and channelling the audio through your car's speakers. Callers reported reasonable audio quality, though it was a little quiet.

Depending on where your cigarette lighter socket is, the (very versatile) stalk might get in the way, but you might be lucky enough for it to position your iPhone at a handy enough height for it to be useful for GPS apps such as *Sygic* (see our iPhone app reviews on p98).

Christopher Phin

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Belkin
www.belkin.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/628966

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency: 88.1MHz-107.9MHz
Features: speakerphone, ClearScan, charge USB device, 3.5mm jack

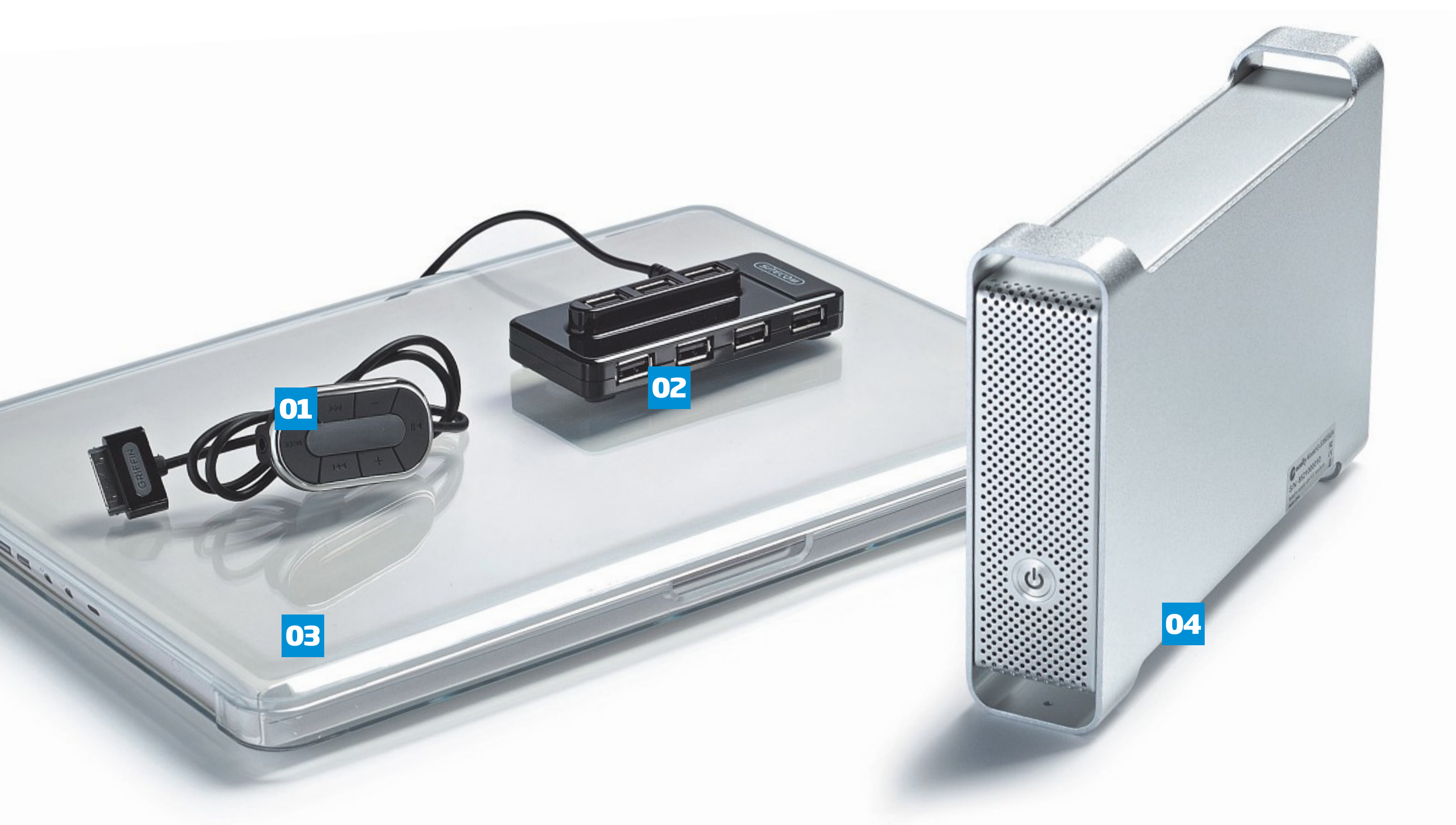
PROS & CONS

- + ClearScan and RDS
- + Great design and build quality
- + Can charge other USB device
- – FM can be crackly and drop out

VERDICT

★★★★★

"As a cheap way of tying your iPhone into your car's system, it can't be beat."



» iPOD ACCESSORY

Griffin Navigate

£28 www.griffintechnology.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/624997

01 This dinky device connects to your iPod or iPhone's dock port and gives you a handy remote control and FM radio. It only works with USB-charged devices, so if your iPod came with a FireWire dock cable, steer clear.

The controller clips to your clothing and you can change tracks, adjust volume and switch to the mediocre FM tuner. It also displays the playing track's name and artist. Unfortunately, the clip isn't versatile; if you attach it to a man's shirt the display is upside down.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"The idea of the Navigate is good, but it's let down by imperfect execution."

» USB HUB

Sitecom 10 Port USB Hub

£27 www.sitecom.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/624938

02 Running out of USB ports for your peripherals is annoying, and daisy-chaining powered four-port hubs is messy and a waste of plug sockets. A ten-port hub, like this one from Sitecom, is much more elegant.

With four ports on the front, three at the rear and three on top, it sits well on your desk. You can slot permanently connected peripherals in the not-so-easily-accessible ports, and save the top-mounted ones for regularly removed devices. You need never be short of USB ports again!

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Ideal for anyone with a shed-load of USB peripherals to connect to their Mac."

» NOTEBOOK COVER

Macally IceShell

£15 www.macally-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/624946

03 If you want to keep your 13-inch aluminium MacBook safe from damage, but don't want to spoil its aesthetics, you could do worse than an IceShell. This two-piece clear plastic case is designed to take the knocks and scratches, so your Mac stays in pristine condition.

There are openings that enable you to use the sensors, in/out ports and optical drive, plus there's ventilation space to stop your MacBook getting too hot. It's easy to fit and doesn't bulk up your notebook too much.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"If you're worried about scratching or denting your MacBook, this will help."

» HDD CADDY

Macally Hi-Speed

£42 www.macally-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/625053

04 It might not be the cheapest 3.5-inch SATA drive enclosure, but it is pretty, looking like a mini Mac Pro. Fitting a SATA drive is easy, but requires some disassembly and isn't ideal for regular drive swapping. It's got an excellent range of connectivity options, offering USB, eSATA and FireWire 400. You can daisy-chain FireWire peripherals, so this option is available even if you don't have spare ports.

Also included is a backup app, but bizarrely for a device that looks like a Mac, it's PC-only.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"It's not cheap, but its good looks and triple-interface quality win through."

Issue 206
April 2009

25 things to do with a Mac
What next for Apple?
iWork '09 in full
Six instant messengers
On the disc
Avenir 2.3.7, iConquer 1.5, Creative Movie FX 1

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iTunes Masterclass
We test the Genius Bar
Write a novel on your Mac
Six NAS iTunes servers
On the disc
Captain FTP 6, Language Alchemist 2, R10Cipher 1.1

SOLD OUT!

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GarageBand investigated
How a NetBook should look
Six web builders tested
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RapidWeaver themes, Compositor 2.9.4 & more

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Fast internet outside the city
How products are born
Stargaze with your Mac
Create DJ playlists
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Fanurio1.7, HyperImage 1, Realsoft 3D 6

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50 essential timesavers
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Understand digital video
Get to grips with Tweetie
On the disc
Money 2, Speed Download 4 & BatchOutput DOC

Issue 211
August 2009

The new MacBook Pro
40 new iLife tips
Upgrade to iPhone 3.0
Digitise analogue media
On the disc
Flux 1.0, Syncables Desktop SE 5 and Install Builder 6.1.2

Back issues

Want to order a back issue of MacFormat? Hurry – stock is limited!

You've only just missed...

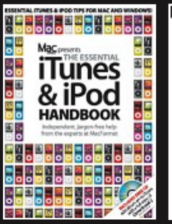
Issue 212 / September 09

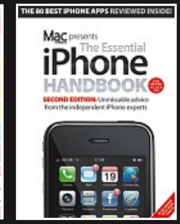
Networking made easy
The ultimate guide to getting connected

Plus...
How to save money on an iPhone
MobileMe investigated
Add multiple effects to iMovie files
Make iPhone ringtones on a Mac
MacBook Air 2.13GHz reviewed
Six FTP clients put to the test

On the disc
CoverScout 2, Style Master 4.6, Aiko 4 Starter Pack, plus tutorial files, top shareware & more

Why not also try these...





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iPhone

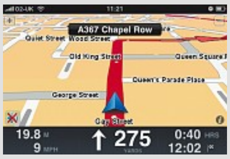
>> MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to.

● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Exploding iPhones

iPhone batteries are in the news following some spontaneous combustions and minor explosions. "We have asked Apple to share any information because of reports of problems relating to iPhones and iPods," said a European Commission official. An Apple spokesman said: "We are aware of these reports and waiting to receive the units from the customers. Until we have the full details, we don't have anything to add."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11:21
A367 Chapel Row
Quiet Street
Wood Street
Old King Street
Queen Square
Queen's Parade Place
George Street
Gay Street
19.8 M
9 MPH
275
YARDS
0:40 HRS
12:02

TomTom

As *MacFormat* went to press, TomTom released its much-anticipated satellite navigation app for the iPhone. Available with maps for the UK and Ireland (£59.99), Western Europe (£79.99) and other territories, it's expensive, with apps like *CoPilot Live* costing half as much (£25.99) for the UK edition, but there's no doubt from our initial testing that it's highly polished and professional. Look out for the full review next issue, and for a hands-on test at **www.macformat.co.uk**!

>> VOICE CONTROL

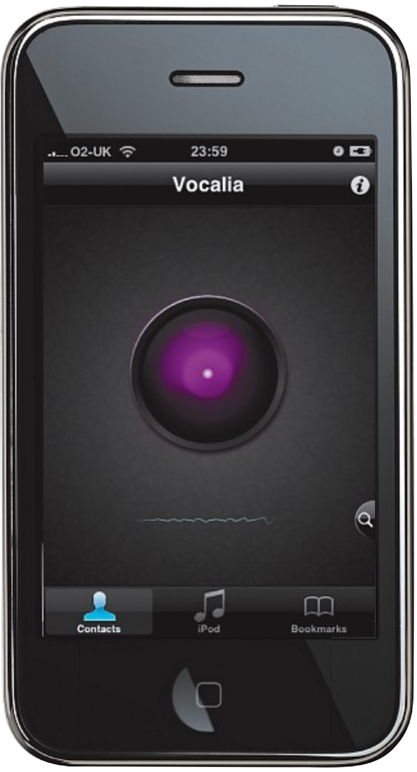
Vocalia

£2.39 Jealous of the iPhone 3GS's Voice Control? You can have it! (sort of…)

Despite being an altogether sleeker package, there's not that much the iPhone 3GS has that owners of earlier models don't get with a firmware upgrade. One thing that is 3GS-only is **Voice Control**, the system for interacting with your iPhone with voice commands. With *Vocalia*, however, you can add this feature – in theory – to any iPhone or, so long as you add an external mic, the second-generation iPod touch.

It has three modes, **Contacts**, **iPod** and **Bookmarks**, along with a big HAL-like eye that blinks as you speak into the mic. Now, speech recognition is difficult, but *Vocalia* makes a sterling effort at getting it right. Speak clearly with the iPhone a couple of inches from your mouth, and the first result will often be correct, even if some of the other matches seem weirdly unrelated. (With contacts, you can type your own shortcuts – 'the big bad boss', say – which usually result in better matches, though there's no true phoneme editing.)

> *"We're impressed with the technology in Vocalia but there are many limitations, thanks to Apple's SDK"*


O2-UK
23:59
Vocalia
Contacts
iPod
Bookmarks

So the tech works reasonably well, but there are problems. The **Bookmarks** mode requires you – thanks to limitations of the SDK – to manually export then upload your web bookmarks; there's no tie-in with *Safari*. Worse, part of what makes **Voice Control** useful is that it's launched with a hardware button, making it safe to use for, say, voice dialling while driving. You need to look at the screen to use *Vocalia*, and thanks to another Apple limitation, even when you've found the number to dial, you have to manually tap a button on-screen.

We're impressed with the technology in *Vocalia*, but it's hard to recommend it when the benefits of **Voice Control** are, for most, negated by the fact that you have to interact with the screen. ●

CONTACTS

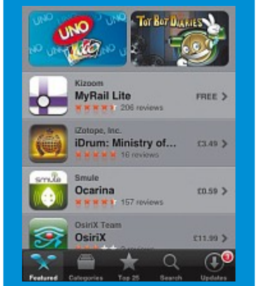
Developer: Creaceed
www.creaceed.com

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A beautiful app with some impressive tech, but it's hamstrung on the iPhone platform."

>> DOWNLOAD THESE APPS


UNO
Toy Bot Diaries
Kizoom
MyRail Lite
FREE
206 reviews
iZotope, Inc.
iDrum: Ministry of...
£3.49
16 reviews
Smule
Ocarina
£0.59
157 reviews
OsiriX Team
OsiriX
£11.99
Featured
Categories
Top 25
Search
Updates

You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

>> SATELLITE NAVIGATION

Sygic Mobile Maps UK & Ireland

£30 It's cheaper than TomTom's, but is it good?

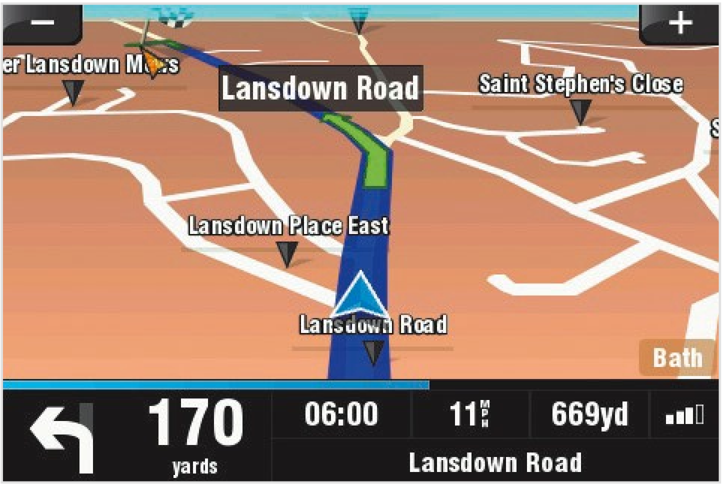
Sygic's *Mobile Maps UK & Ireland* satellite navigation app for the iPhone has a very distinctive look – almost cartoon-like, almost like you're looking at someone's mock-up of what a sat-nav system could look like. We've decided that generally we like it, but we don't like how small some of the interface elements are; they can be tricky to read when driving.

There are plenty of features – unlike Navigon's *Navigator Europe* app (see last issue), it can do a full postcode search – and we like how the view zooms in and out as your speed changes as you need to see less or more detail. It doesn't, though, duck playing music to let spoken instructions be clearly heard, and you're dependent on finding a good, powered cradle for your car. It can't read your address book – though an update is imminent – and the price we've quoted is a sale price which may not be available after August. ●

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Good, and good value, but lacking polish. Let's see TomTom's app next issue!"



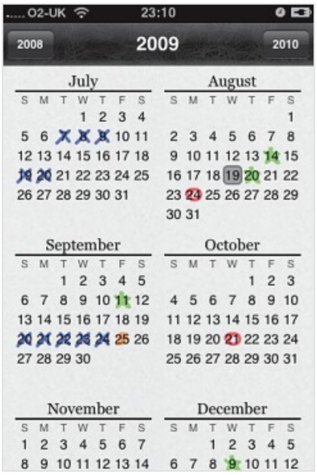
>> SIMPLE CALENDAR

Years

£1.19 Miss your pocket diary's year-to-view?

Here's a sweet take on a calendar, with a 'less is more' slant. As fully-paid-up geeks and, perhaps more pertinently, as literally fully-paid-up MobileMe members, we're not likely to abandon the built-in *Calendar* with its reams of scheduling and multi-calendar support. But if you yearn for the days when you marked birthdays, work shifts, holidays and more by breaking out your highlighters and attaching a year-to-view calendar in your little black book, then *Years* is one little iPhone app that will bring back those functions.

Flip back and forth to show an entire year's worth of dates on a mini calendar, then tap on a month to add highlights. You can choose from four different highlights, and once you've picked one, just tap on dates to mark them. That's it! And costing just over a quid, it can't be knocked. ●



VERDICT

★★★★½

"There's no tie-in with Calendar and you can't add notes, but it's charming."

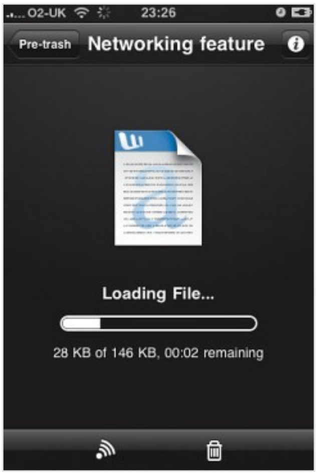
>> iDISK ACCESS

MobileMe iDisk

£FREE Access your iDisk's files on the go!

Many apps have added the ability to connect to your iDisk – if you're a MobileMe subscriber – and the public folders of other MobileMe members, but this is Apple's own, so is it any good? The bottom line is, if you just want an app to browse your files – and preview many file types, including *Word* and *Excel* documents – then this app is great. It's slick, simple to use, and lets you share these files with others by sending out an email with a link that can be password protected.

Still, you can't filter the list, edit the files, attach them to an email (rather than just sending a link) or use it to upload files – a limitation of the whole operating system really, rather than this application itself – or even move files into folders. See what else *MobileMe iDisk* can do in our tutorial on page 70. ●



VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Solid, if basic; we'd like to see a suite of MobileMe apps, allowing, say, Back to My Mac."

Games

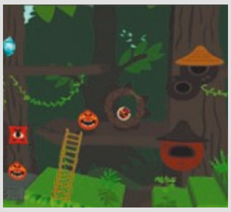
» MEET YOUR GAMES GURU

Andy Dyer is a legend, having worked on many games mags. He now gets his gaming fix on his iMac and iPod touch.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Urban warfare

Popular massively multiplayer online card trading game *Urban Rivals* is heading for the iPhone and iPod touch. The MMO features more than 400 characters to collect, train up and battle against other like-minded individuals. We'll bring you a full preview as soon as possible. In the meantime, sign up at **www.urban-rivals.com**



Rollin' on

Rolando 2: Quest for the Golden Orchid is now available from the App Store. And if you're wondering why that's great news, go and download the first game. It's a superb action puzzler in which you guide blobs around by tilting and touching. The sequel has an all-new quest, better looks and new abilities. Genius! **www.ngmoco.com**

» SIMULATION

The Sims 3: World Adventures

The Sims 3 goes global with a new expansion pack

Around the world in 80 plays: treat your sims to more exotic locations.

At one point a new expansion pack for *The Sims 2* was a weekly event, or at least that's how it felt. However, with *The Sims 3* EA is leaving a respectable six-month gap between the launch of the new version of their hugely successful game and its first add-on.

The Sims 3, in case you missed it, launched in June of this year and sold 1.4 million units in its first week on sale. And to date, more than 36 million user-created items have been uploaded to the internet. Amazing.

> *"Sims will be able to leave Sunset Valley and Riverview and head off to France, China and Egypt"*

Sunsets and snake-charming are all in a day's work for the all-new international jetsetting sims.

Sims fans are a hungry lot, so it's with some excitement that we received news of this first expansion pack. Releasing in November, *The Sims 3: World Adventures* promises a generous helping of extras and sees players' sims heading off for adventures in famous destinations around the globe.

EA is describing this release as one of the most robust *Sims* expansion packs to date. And, judging by the feature list, their claims are justified.

For the first time sims will be able to leave Sunset Valley and Riverview and head off to amazing locations in France, China and Egypt. Take a trip to Shang Simla, for example, and your sim can learn a martial art. Or perhaps a romantic and cultural break on the Champs Les Sims in France is more to your liking. More adventurous players can head off to Al Simhara in Egypt to find out the secrets of the ancients.

During their adventures, players can learn fresh skills, search for secret treasures, discover new styles and even meet new sims and bring them home. In doing so, players can share their experiences through photos, movies and stories. A bonus comes in the form of a gift of 1,000 SimPoints for anyone who buys the game to be spent in the online Sims Store.

Mobile gamers needn't feel left out either as there's a version of the expansion coming to iPhone and iPod touch early in the New Year. More news on this soon. ●

>> POINT-AND-CLICK ADVENTURE

The Abbey

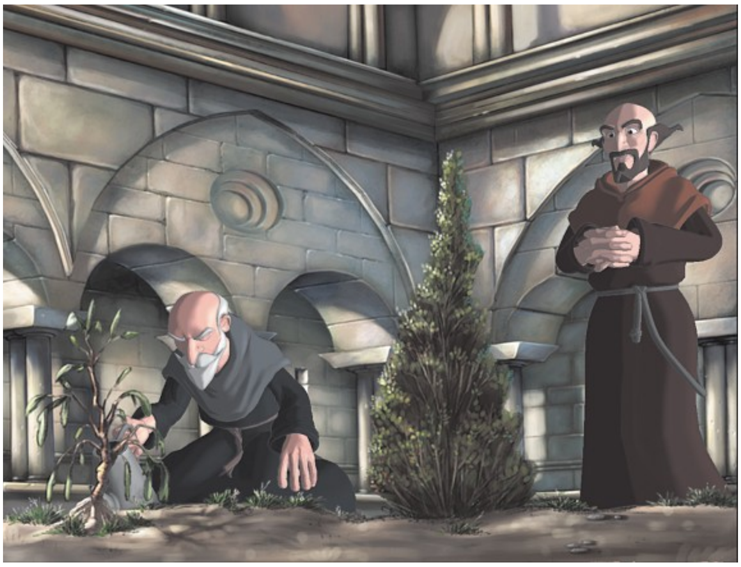
£14.95 An intriguing murder mystery set in an old medieval abbey

For those who've read Umberto Eco's weighty novel *The Name of the Rose* – a post-modern meditation on truth and interpretation, among other things – you'll be struck immediately by the uncanny similarity of this game's plot. Whether *The Abbey*'s designers are to be applauded for cleverly paying tribute to Eco's novel or chastised for shamelessly ripping it off we'll leave you to decide.

Either way, the story of the game runs as thus: Brother Leonardo of Toledo, a wise monk-cum-medieval detective (in the style of Sherlock Holmes) is taking his sidekick Bruno (a young seminarian) to the Nuesta Senora de la Natividad abbey for training. En route to the abbey a mysterious figure tries to kill them by triggering a rockfall. Undeterred, the pair arrive at the abbey only to find that one of the brothers has recently been killed in what appears on the surface to be an accident. On closer inspection it becomes clear that this was no accident and that something is amiss in the abbey's community.

As well as trying to allay the brothers' fears of evil roaming the abbey's corridors, Brother Leonardo also has to contend with some very secretive monks and the fact that the abbey's world-famous library is closed to anyone but a select few, for reasons that are entirely unclear.

> *"With better translation, tighter control on the voice acting and a more detailed soundscape, The Abbey could have been a belter…"*



"I say, old man, that really is quite an annoying little habit you've got there…"

Cinematic animation

While the subject matter is potentially quite grim and spooky, the developers have oddly gone for a very Disney-esque style of animation. There's nothing inherently wrong with this – in fact it makes the adventure quite cinematic – but it just seems slightly at odds with the story. This lack of creepy atmosphere is exacerbated by a distinct lack of sound effects. Dialogue and occasional sounds are present, but during certain animated segments, accompanying sounds are notable by their absence.

There are also some jarring errors in translation and the occasional blooper from the voice actors.

These niggles aside, the point-and-click gameplay and intriguing storyline pretty much rescue the package. Leo and Bruce shuffle around at quite a slow speed (monks are a sedate bunch) but any potential frustration is solved by the fact that a double click at the edge of the screen, or selecting a location on the handy map takes you instantaneously to your desired destination. This makes a pacy affair of what could have been quite a plodding game (well, pacy for a point-and-click adventure, anyway).

In addition, the puzzles, while not terribly challenging, are at least gently satisfying. As well as interrogating the brothers on the mysterious goings-on at the abbey you might have to repair a broken object, or retrieve some lost property, and there are even a couple of more classical problems to solve like sliding puzzles and code-breaking exercises.

Engaging but average

It's a shame that more care couldn't have been taken over the game's regionalisation. With better translation, tighter control on the voice acting and a more richly detailed soundscape, *The Abbey* could have been an absolute belter. As it is, it's simply an engaging, but average point-and-click adventure. ●

CONTACTS

Developer: Crimson Cow
www.crimsoncowgames.com
Publisher Virtual Programming
www.vpltd.com
Vendor Virtual Programming
www.vpltd.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Mac **RAM:** 512MB RAM **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5 or later **Other:** GeForce 7300, Radeon X1600 or Intel GMA X3100 128MB, 3GB hard disk space, internet for registration

PROS & CONS

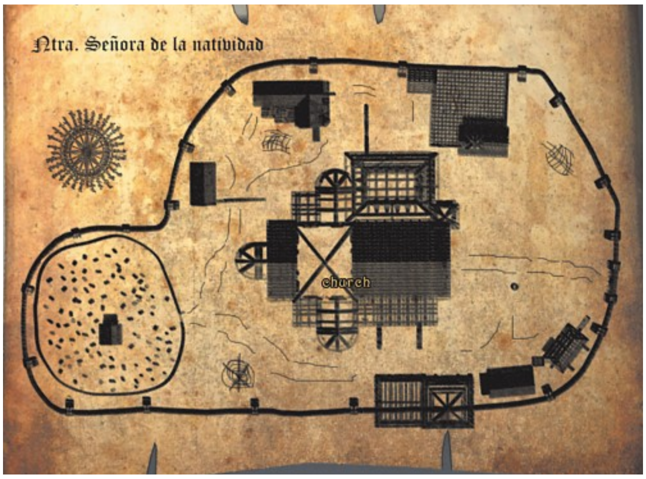
- ⊕ Nice visuals
- ⊕ Some amusing dialogue
- ⊕ Gently rewarding puzzles
- ⊖ Lack of sound effects
- ⊖ Bad translation
- ⊖ Story seems familiar

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A slick-looking and intriguing adventure that is unfortunately let down by sloppy translation and patchy sounds."

The map is genius. You can instantly get to where you want to go.



>> PUZZLE GAME

Pipe Mania

£20 A game featuring a plumber as the hero? Now there's an idea...

CONTACTS

Developer: Robosoft Technologies
www.robosoftin.com
Publisher: Virtual Programming
www.vpltd.com
Vendor: Virtual Programming
www.vpltd.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel/PowerPC 800MHz or greater **RAM:** 256MB RAM **OS:** Mac OS X Tiger (10.4.11 or later) or Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, internet connection for product registration

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Simple but fun
- ⊕ Colourful visuals
- ⊕ New and classic levels
- ⊕ Puzzle levels
- ⊕ Several play modes
- ⊖ Frustrating

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Pipe Mania has enough levels, puzzle challenges and play modes to keep you going for months. Very tough, too."

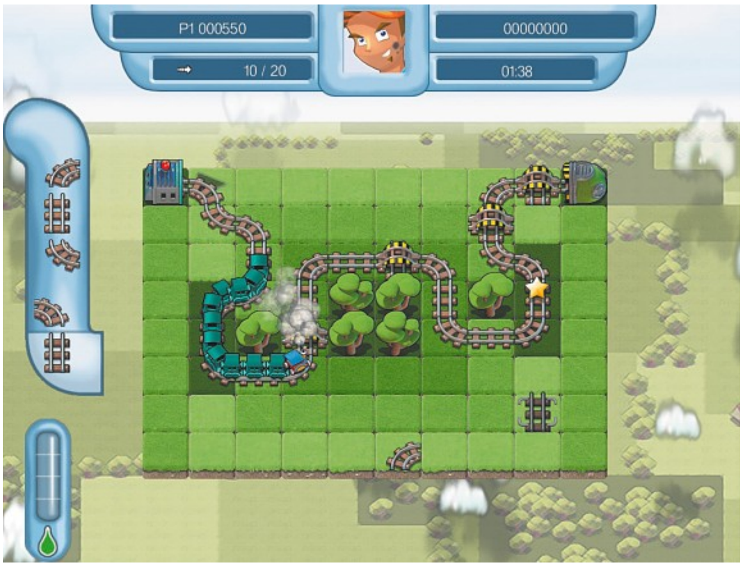
Classic games are returning to tempt and taunt us in equal measure. For every gold nugget of genius that reminds us how great gaming used to be, there's another creaking old throwback that spits bitter disappointment all over our rose-tinted spectacles.

Fortunately, this month we have two games that fall into the former category. On the opposite page devoted to iPhone and iPod touch reviews you'll find arguably the greatest point-and-click adventure ever made – *The Secret of Monkey Island* – revamped for renewed enjoyment on everyone's favourite handheld gaming devices.

Classic comeback

But here we have the somewhat less acclaimed but equally welcome return of classic puzzler *Pipe Mania*. Our memories are not so clear that we can remember whether or not the plot was the same in the original release, but regardless, here you meet a character called Alfonso, who having made a success of his plumbing business has retired to the Isle of Ducts. However, his old rival plumber Buffalo Bonzo is wreaking havoc by spreading his evil flooze all over the island, so it's up to Alfonzo's offspring to learn the tools of the plumbing trade and save the day.

This is a somewhat contrived setup for what is essentially a very simple game. Each level is made up of a grid with a start point (a tap) and an end point (a drain). After a certain amount of time the evil flooze (a nasty liquid) begins to flow from the tap and it's up to the player to lay down pipes in order to guide the flooze harmlessly down the drain without spilling it. Sounds easy enough. The trouble is the pipe sections appear randomly from a pipe dispenser so you don't always have the piece you need at the time you need it, so you have to plan ahead.



The image above offers just the merest hint as to why this game has been entitled Pipe Mania.

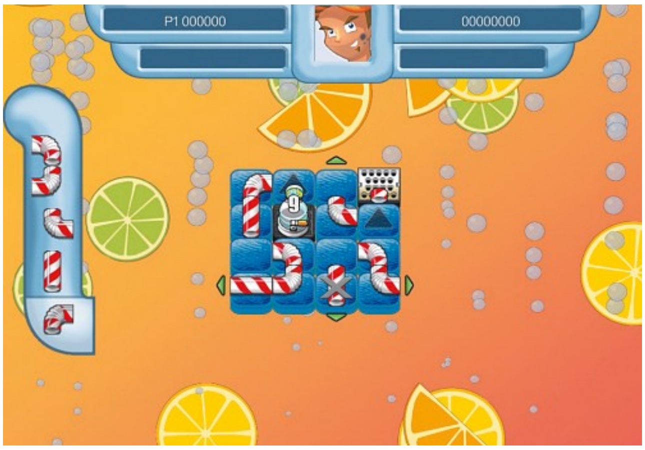
> *"The cartoony looks and cheesy storyline make Pipe Mania look like a ten-a-penny online casual game, but don't be fooled"*

As you progress, the levels become more complex and you have to complete a pipeline of a specified minimum number of pieces. If the pipeline has to be 20 sections long and you only place 18, you lose. Thanks goodness then for different types of pipe section. By using straights, curves, cross-pipes and the like you can create meandering pipelines that cover more of the grid and even double back on themselves in order to reach the desired target and score additional points. Other challenges come in the form of pumps, which move the flooze more rapidly and can damage your pipeline, forcing you to make hasty repairs. It's a stressful process but hugely satisfying when you complete a particularly tough level.

To prevent monotony there are several play modes. You can choose to play alone, cooperatively with a friend or competitively against a friend. Also you can attempt the newly created levels and classic levels from the original game as well as some brilliantly enjoyable puzzle challenges with predefined objectives.

Challenging and entertaining

The cartoony looks and cheesy storyline make *Pipe Mania* look a little like a ten-a-penny online casual game, but don't be fooled. This is a tough game, with tough old-school gaming values and will keep you entertained and infuriated for a considerable length of time. ●



Ditch the gunk as quickly as you can and you will be handsomely rewarded with, err, even more flooze to lose.

>> iPHONE POINT-AND-CLICK ADVENTURE

The Secret of Monkey Island: SE

£4.99 The best pirate adventure ever is back as a special edition

>> BUY ONLINE
You can download these iPhone and iPod touch games from the App Store.

This special edition of *Monkey Island* gives us a fresh chance to see wannabe pirate Guybrush Threepwood trying to earn his stripes by carrying out three tests and ultimately taking on evil Ghost Pirate LeChuck.

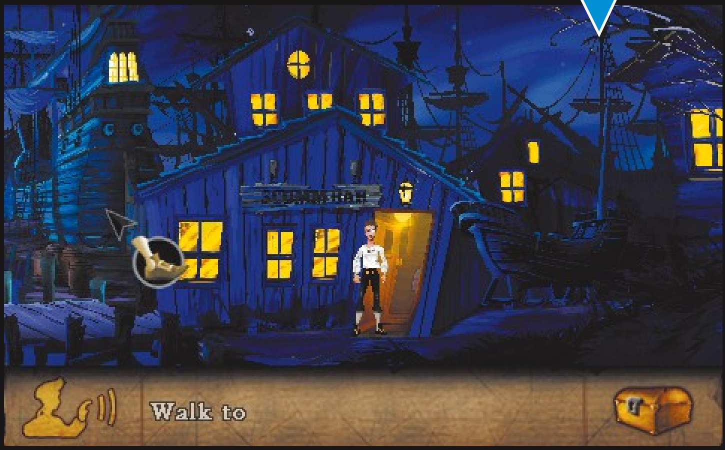
While the control system can be a bit hit and miss in some locations, the game not only faithfully recreates the original, but adds improved graphics, voice acting and an enhanced soundtrack while retaining character. In fact, the original version is included and you can toggle between the old and the new during gameplay.

This is comedy adventuring at its most amusing and entertaining ●

CONTACTS
Developer: LucasArts
Available from the App Store

VERDICT
★★★★★
"A superb revamp of a legendary adventure."

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★



>> iPHONE PUZZLE GAME

Vertigo

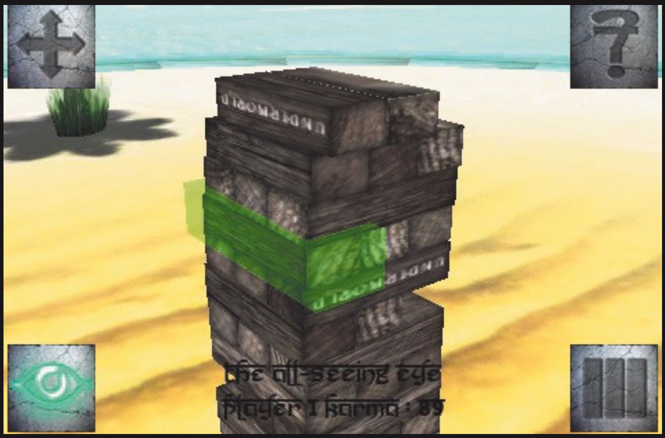
59p Is this classic game a towering success?

This is, essentially, Jenga for your iPhone with extras (including a stressful time attack mode). The idea is to take blocks from a tower and place them on the top, making it taller and less stable. Players take it in turns with the loser being the one who causes the topple.

The controls implemented here are good, even though it's more fiddly than it's worth trying to remove blocks from the centre of a layer. However, this is still definitely a nicely implemented little block-stacker. ●

CONTACTS
Developer: Underworld Entertainment Limited
Available from the App Store

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"The classic block-stacker is fiddly but fun on the iPhone."



>> iPHONE ARCADE GAME

Q*Bert International

£1.19 A game of blocks, bounces and baddies

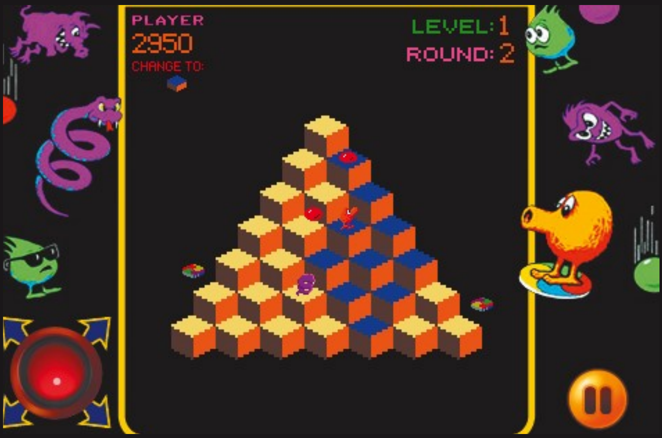
They don't make them like this any more, er, except they just have. *Q*Bert* was an extremely addictive arcade game released years ago.

The premise is simple: make Q*Bert jump around cubes. Each time he touches one it changes colour and when they have all been changed, it's onto the next level. However, enemies are also bouncing around; if Q*Bert gets touched, it's curtains.

This release features the original and an updated mode. Essential for retro fans. ●

CONTACTS
Developer: Mad Monkey Studios
Available from the App Store

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"Ideal if you love tough repetitive retro challenges."



NEC
SyncMaster 2233sw
SAMSUNG

The six screens may look pretty similar but there can only be one winner.
Photography by Gavin Roberts

>> BUDGET MONITORS

Pay and Display

Your Mac Pro or Mac mini needs a screen, but which one? **Ian Osborne** takes a look at budget displays

>> DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's own line of Cinema Displays are anything but budget models. The cheapest in the range is the Apple LED Cinema Display, a 24-inch flat panel that comes in at £635. Or you can go for the 30-inch model at £1,173, if you have the spare cash.

Unless you only use an Apple notebook or iMac, you need a monitor to go with your Mac. Today's flat-panel models are light, slim and take up very little room on your desk. They're easy to connect too, with the growth of DVI as a standard ensuring cross-platform compatibility for almost any display. But which do you buy?

> *"You can buy a perfectly good monitor that does everything you ask of it and still have plenty of change left in your wallet"*

You can spend a small fortune on a monitor (especially if you insist on an Apple display), but you don't have to. You can buy a perfectly good monitor that does everything you ask of it and still have change left in your wallet; Mac users are not restricted to Apple's displays.

But even though any off-the-shelf monitor will work with your Mac, it's important to buy the right display for you. As with most modern technologies, a little thinking time before making a purchase goes a long way, and can do much to minimise the risk of a costly mistake. First you need to assess what you will be mainly using it for. If you do a lot of design work, a display with a wide colour gamut is essential. If you watch a lot of movies, go for a widescreen model, and ask yourself whether it needs to be HD-capable. If space is not an issue, a 19-inch screen with a 4:3 aspect ratio is a good option.

This month's Group Test looks at budget models from six top manufacturers, with the most expensive coming in at £170. From design to sound we put them through their paces. Let's see how they got on…

On test this issue

ASUS VH222H £149

BenQ E2200HD £152

Hanns G Hi221DP £109

LG FLATRON W2284F £179

NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+ £149

Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW £140

The Samsung's side buttons are also marked up with on-screen graphics.

>> TEST ONE

Design and build

Robustness, aesthetic appeal and ease of use

All the displays feel robust and can be tilted vertically for comfort, but to rotate horizontally, you have to turn them on the spot. The NEC deserves commendation, as you can adjust its height as well.

Some displays (Hanns G, LG) keep the controls out of the way for aesthetic purposes, while others (NEC, BenQ, ASUS) have them on view. The Samsung's side-mounted buttons are labelled with an on-screen graphic when in use, giving the best of both worlds.

The Hanns G looks best, with a matt black finish and no obtrusive distractions. The LG's shiny black finish with clear plastic details gives it an unusual look. It features an interesting means of switching it on too; a droplet of clear plastic recognises your touch. However, it's easy to snag when you operate the buttons on the side and can accidentally turn off the display.

Incidentally, each monitor in the test features a black design. We let the manufacturers choose what to send us and it seems black is in!

>> TEST RESULTS

ASUS VH222H	★★★☆☆
BenQ E2200HD	★★★☆☆
Hanns G Hi221DP	★★★½☆
LG FLATRON W2284F	★★★☆☆
NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+	★★★★☆
Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW	★★★½☆

>> TEST TWO

Viewing angles

Do the colours shift when you move?

The angle from which you view your screen can affect the brightness and cause colours to shift – especially if the angle is too steep. But how steep can you go? Be sceptical of manufacturers' figures. A stated viewing angle of '170°/160°' means, in theory, you can view the display from anywhere within a 170° arc on the horizontal plane, and 160° on the vertical (180° is the theoretical maximum), but they might deem a significant amount of distortion acceptable before finally drawing the line.

The ASUS offers good horizontal angles, but is less accomplished for vertical viewing. The screen loses its brightness soon after moving away from the head-on position, but manages around 100° before the colours degrade. The BenQ puts in a similar performance, though is marginally better. The Hanns G is less accomplished.

The NEC puts in the lowest claim, but it isn't that far behind the pack. The Samsung performs best with the widest angles.

>> TEST RESULTS

ASUS VH222H	★★★☆☆
BenQ E2200HD	★★★½☆
Hanns G Hi221DP	★★½☆☆
LG FLATRON W2284F	★★★½☆
NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+	★★½☆☆
Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW	★★★★☆

The Hanns G is less accomplished when viewed from certain angles.

>> HOW WE TESTED / Putting the monitors through their paces

To test the displays we set them up with a Mac mini and put them through tasks to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

We also look at the design, build quality and robustness of each screen, as well as how straightforward it is to set up and use on a daily basis. Are the buttons and controls easily accessible? Can you adjust its horizontal and vertical viewing angles?

The viewing angles of the screen itself are also tested. It may look fine when you're directly in front of it, but how far can you move before it is unviewable?

Monitors can struggle to distinguish between fine differences in colour, especially near-black, so our screen test checks for consistency in blends and definition in bands. A screen's backlight must be consistent too, otherwise you get patches of light and dark areas. We check this in our lighting consistency test.

Our sound test checks the in-built speakers, and finally, there's value for money, where we look at cost.

We used the tiny-but-mighty Mac mini to test out the screens.

UP | Publicity Image | Pixar Creative Services

>> TEST THREE

Light consistency

Is the backlighting consistent, or do you see shadows?

Next it's time to check whether the entire display is consistently lit, showing no light or dark patches when viewing a single-colour screen. You'd hardly expect a budget monitor to perform to the same standards as an OLED-lit high-end display, but overall, all the models tested here perform well, but all lost consistency when viewed at an angle.

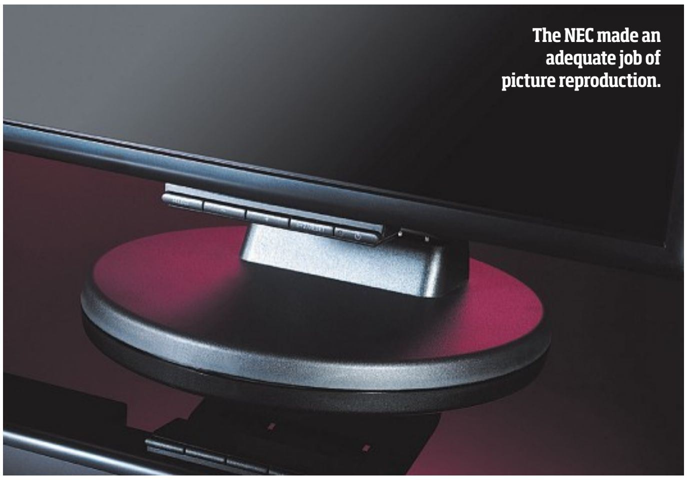
The ASUS and BenQ monitors are the worst, with noticeable light and dark patches throughout. They not disastrous, but the others are all better. The LG's lighting is stronger in the centre of the screen, with the Hanns G and the NEC offering small darker patches, but nothing too drastic. The Samsung is the best here; it has the same problems but they're not so noticeable.

It must be noted that while none of the displays offer a perfect degree of consistency, anyone who finds the results unacceptably poor probably shouldn't be looking for a budget monitor.

>> TEST RESULTS

ASUS VH222H	★★⯪☆☆
BenQ E2200HD	★★⯪☆☆
Hanns G Hi221DP	★★★⯪☆
LG FLATRON W2284F	★★★☆☆
NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+	★★★⯪☆
Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW	★★★★☆

The BenQ monitor is patchy when it comes to light consistency.



The NEC made an adequate job of picture reproduction.

>> TEST FOUR

Screen test

We check out the monitors for picture quality

Some monitors fail to distinguish between 95% and 100% black at one end of the greyscale ramp, and 5% and 0% at the other. You might expect a budget monitor to struggle with this, but the LG, NEC and Samsung displays cope well. The BenQ, ASUS and Hanns G models get through the near-black test but have less success with the almost-white one.

Even after calibrating the ASUS to get rid of the over-saturated colours, the screen was dark, even at maximum brightness. The Hanns G, LG and Samsung models offer the best reproduction, with smooth gradients and clear images. None of the monitors excel in our text test. The Samsung is the strongest, but is still unremarkable. The LG and NEC offer passable reproduction, with the others less clear, especially at low point sizes. The Hanns G would benefit from a wider adjustable contrast range. On maximum setting it's just about right, but there's nowhere to go if you want more.

>> TEST RESULTS

ASUS VH222H	★★⯪☆☆
BenQ E2200HD	★★★☆☆
Hanns G Hi221DP	★★★★☆
LG FLATRON W2284F	★★★★⯪
NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+	★★★⯪☆
Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW	★★★★⯪

>> MAKING THE CONNECTION / Connectivity options explained…

Connecting a monitor to your Mac is simple. All modern Macs offer DVI-compatible output, and you can get adaptors to connect any of Apple's output options to a standard DVI input, or even the older VGA standard.

A Mini DisplayPort to DVI Adapter (£20) is useful for connecting Macs that only offer a Mini DisplayPort video-out option to your DVI monitor. These include the latest Mac laptops. Older Mac laptops use Mini DVI, and the new Mac minis have both. An Apple Mini DVI to DVI Adapter (£15) lets you connect these machines to a DVI display in this way. If you have an older monitor, you might require an adaptor to connect with a VGA port. These include Mini DisplayPort to VGA Adapter (£20), Apple Mini DVI to VGA Adapter (£15) and Apple DVI to VGA Display Adapter (£15). For more information on Apple's complete range of video adaptors, go to the Apple Store at **http://store.apple.com**.

With lots of options, connectivity for the Mac is simple as well as plentiful.

Because the LG has no in-built speakers it scores zero for sound.

>> TEST FIVE

Sound options

How do the displays' built-in speakers measure up?

The two displays with no built-in speakers (LG and Samsung) automatically score a zero. And the ones that do offer this feature are dreadful. If you're looking to buy a monitor at the budget end of the market, and intend to use it for anything more sonically challenging than system bleeps and audible notifications, we recommend you factor in the cost of a set of speakers.

The four monitors with built-in speakers all offer weak, flat sound with very little definition and character. The NEC is barely audible, which is almost a blessing considering how bland and lifeless our test tunes sound. The BenQ offers no power at all, and an audio quality reminiscent of catching the overspill from someone else's iPod on a particularly miserable train journey. The other two are better, but barely so. The ASUS is tinny, very flat and lacking in bass and definition, and although the Hanns G offers a marginally more rounded sound, it is still like listening to a stereo playing in the next room.

>> TEST RESULTS

ASUS VH222H	★★☆☆☆
BenQ E2200HD	★⯪☆☆☆
Hanns G Hi221DP	★★☆☆☆
LG FLATRON W2284F	☆☆☆☆☆
NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+	★⯪☆☆☆
Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW	☆☆☆☆☆

>> TEST SIX

Value for money

The all-important bang-for-buck assessment…

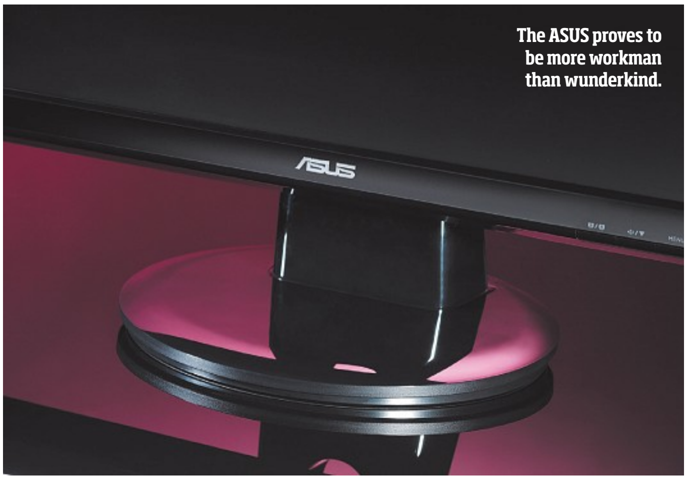
On paper, the ASUS and BenQ models are two of the better displays on offer, but in our tests they are more workmanlike than wonderful. The LG performs better, but it is the most expensive monitor in our tests, and if you make regular use of your display's control buttons (as opposed to setting it up once and then forgetting they exist), the touch-sensitive power button will drive you insane as you constantly switch it off by mistake.

The Hanns G Hi221DP is a bargain; it's a solid performer and good looking too. The NEC's 19-inch screen and 4:3 aspect ratio make it a poor choice for a primary monitor, but an excellent choice for a second display if you favour the two-screen setup.

Finally, the Samsung offers excellent value for money. You need a separate speaker setup, but given the audio quality of the displays that offer integrated speakers, that's not such a bad idea whichever model you go for.

>> TEST RESULTS

ASUS VH222H	★★★☆☆
BenQ E2200HD	★★★☆☆
Hanns G Hi221DP	★★★★☆
LG FLATRON W2284F	★★★⯪☆
NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+	★★★⯪☆
Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW	★★★★☆


The ASUS proves to be more workman than wunderkind.

>> THE WINNER / Samsung's SyncMaster 2233SW takes the prize

The displays are evenly matched, but Samsung's SyncMaster 2233SW wins by a narrow margin. Although it scores highest or joint-highest in four out of our six tests, its victory isn't as convincing as one might imagine, with its supremacy hotly contested in every category.

The SyncMaster 2233SW offers true HD resolution. Unlike the other two HD monitors, the ASUS and the BenQ, it doesn't have a HDMI input, but as no Mac uses HDMI anyway, that's not really relevant here. It's the second-lightest monitor on test, and also the second cheapest (according to an average based on Froogle prices, **www.froogle.co.uk**).

The Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW scores zero in the sound test as it doesn't offer built-in speakers, but standards were dire across the board. If you're buying a budget monitor and intend to use *Front Row* or *iTunes*, you'll be wise to invest in an external speaker system.

Runner-up is the Hanns G. Its resolution might not be as high as some of the others, but it boasts one of the better screens.

Mac FORMAT Winner!

The Samsung takes the glory, scoring well in four out of six tests.

» BUDGET MONITORS / AT A GLANCE

ASUS VH222H

★★★☆☆

BenQ E2200HD

★★★☆☆

Hanns G Hi221DP

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price *	£149	£152	£109
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/628561	www.techradar.com/610811	www.techradar.com/500421
Connectivity	VGA, DVI-D, HDMI	VGA, DVI-D, HDMI	VGA, DVI-D
Screen size **	21.5-inch (54cm) widescreen	21.5-inch (54cm) widescreen	22-inch (56cm) widescreen
Pixel resolution	1,920x1,080	1,920x1,080	1,680x1,050
Contrast ratio	20,000:1	10,000:1	1,000:1
Response time	5ms	5ms	5ms
No. of colours	16.7 million	16.7 million	16.7 million
Viewing angles	170/160	170/160	170/160
Built-in speakers?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dimensions	22x51.5x33.1cm	52.3x40.8x18.8cm	51x42.4x20.2cm
Weight	4.9kg	4.8kg	4.9kg

LG FLATRON W2284F

★★★½☆

NEC MultiSync LCD195VXM+

★★★½☆

Mac FORMAT Winner!

Samsung SyncMaster 2233SW

★★★★½

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price *	£170	£149	£140
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/628574	www.techradar.com/628590	www.techradar.com/628604
Connectivity	VGA, DVI-D	VGA, DVI-D	VGA, DVI-D
Screen size **	22-inch (56cm) widescreen	19-inch (48cm)	21.5-inch (54cm) widescreen
Pixel resolution	1,680x1,050	1,280x1,024	1,920 x 1,080
Contrast ratio	30,000:1	550:1	15,000:1
Response time	2ms	8ms	5ms
No. of colours	16.7 million	16.2 million	16.7 million
Viewing angles	176/176	160/145	170/160
Built-in speakers?	No	Yes	No
Dimensions	52.2x16.2x42.4cm	40.6x24x38.6cm	51.9x39.2x20.9cm
Weight	4.35kg	6kg	4.4kg

* Price quoted is the mid-level price from a Froogle search for the product in question. ** Corner to corner diagonally, and measured by ourselves instead of relying on manufacturer's specs.

Because the image is everything...

PhotoRadar.com
The home of digital photography

Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK & Ireland MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
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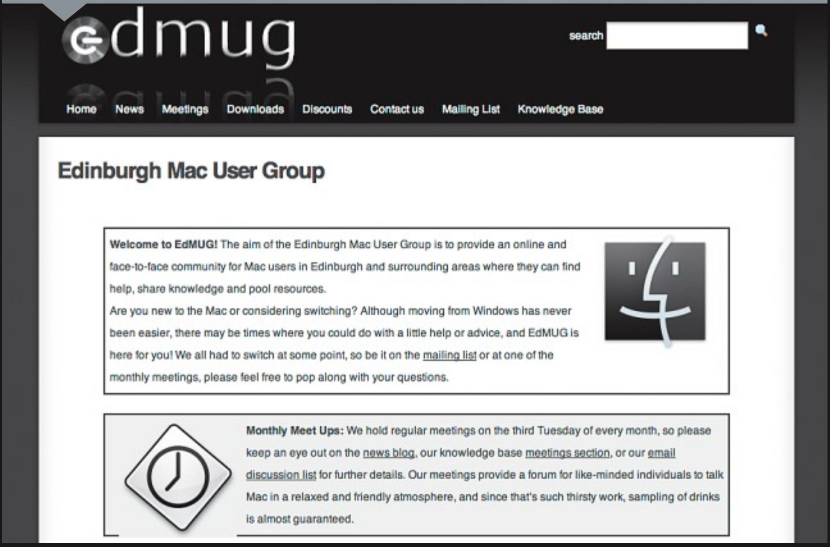
MUG OF THE MONTH / Edinburgh MUG



Edinburgh Mac User Group

Welcome to EdMUG! The aim of the Edinburgh Mac User Group is to provide an online and face-to-face community for Mac users in Edinburgh and surrounding areas where they can find help, share knowledge and pool resources.

Are you new to the Mac or considering switching? Although moving from Windows has never been easier, there may be times where you could do with a little help or advice, and EdMUG is here for you! We all had to switch at some point, so be it on the mailing list or at one of the monthly meetings, please feel free to pop along with your questions.

Monthly Meet Ups: We hold regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month, so please keep an eye out on the news blog, our knowledge base meetings section, or our email discussion list for further details. Our meetings provide a forum for like-minded individuals to talk Mac in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and since that's such thirsty work, sampling of drinks is almost guaranteed.

The aim of the Edinburgh Mac User Group is to provide an online and face-to-face community for Mac users in Edinburgh and surrounding areas, where they can find help, share knowledge and pool resources. Monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the Speakeasy room in the The Voodoo Rooms. Visit **www.edmug.org.uk** for full details. ●

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www.ymug.org

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macformat@futurenet.com

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If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

Digital Camera Photographer of the Year 2009

It's back for 2009 with great cash prizes and a range of inspiring new categories

Win £10,000!

Are you a keen photographer? Then you can't afford to miss Digital Camera magazine's Photographer of the Year 2009 competition, with a top prize of £10,000!

There are ten categories to enter, with a wide range of subjects – from Portraits to Black & White to Planet Earth. Visit the website and get your pictures on show!

Bernard Menettrier, 3rd place: Urban, POTY 2008

Deadline 30th September

Enter the world's biggest photo competition today!

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skyARTS

The Royal Photographic Society

"If you already own a mouse, keyboard and monitor, get a mini"

» APPLE MAC MINI P116

HOW TO BUY

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- NOTEBOOKS
- iPODS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Graham Barlow
Editor

The thing with Apple is that nobody, and I mean nobody, *really* knows what they're about to do next. Nobody wants to buy a new Mac, iPhone or iPod only to find out that a newer, faster, better model is released a week later. What can you do about it?

A couple of weeks before a new Mac gets launched there's usually a flurry of speculation on the rumour websites, which is as good an indication as any that there's something in the works. We have relaunched the *MacFormat* website, and **www.macformat.co.uk** will now be able to help you keep abreast of the latest rumours, so check it out regularly.

There's also a few seasonal factors to consider. Apple's iPod range has traditionally been refreshed in September, and like everybody else, Apple likes to have some new product on the shelves in time for Christmas. In this section you'll find details of the range that Apple is currently offering. Enjoy!

» BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

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How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?
The new OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard comes as standard on all new Macs, but you can pick up a copy for just £25 – amazing value!

Although we haven't seen any changes to Apple Mac family since June, there have been updates to other products, including the Time Capsule (see the review on p93). There are also new versions of two of Apple's professional software suites, *Final Cut Studio* and *Logic Studio*. Both are reviewed this issue, starting on page 84.

Back to the Macs. The MacBook Pro range had quite an overhaul back in June, with an extended range of notebooks at more affordable prices, but still with the incredible power that we're used to with the family.

> "Desktop Macs are more powerful, but if you need to use your Mac on the go, Apple's notebooks certainly won't leave you disappointed"

There is now only one MacBook, and the MacBook Air duo has seen a processor boost. The changes complete the recent updates, which include a Mac mini with more power, hard-drive space and RAM. The iMac has more speed, RAM and hard-drive space up to 1TB and the Mac Pro now comes as either Quad-Core or 8-Core, offering the most powerful Mac yet.

Desktop Macs are more powerful, but Apple's notebooks won't leave you disappointed, either.

Making your mind up

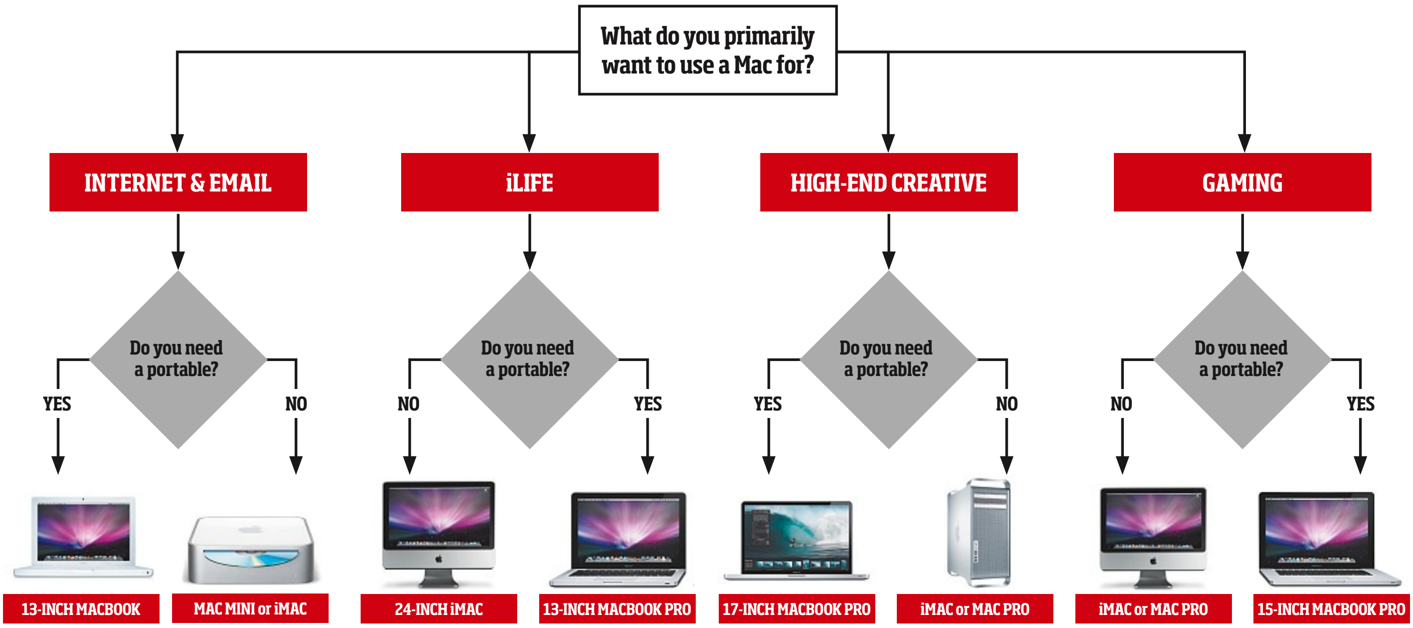
All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips, as a minimum, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful. So now you need to choose whether you need a notebook or a desktop. If you work on the move then you need a notebook.

Notebook choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The white MacBook is just £749, and with its 2.13GHz processor is great for less intensive work, such as using *iLife*. It's also ideal for students.

While the MacBook range has been downsized, the MacBook Pro family had been extended and is more affordable. The MacBook Pro is ideal for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. Starting us off are the 13-inch models with 2.26 or 2.53GHz processors and up to 4GB RAM. There are now three 15-inch versions to choose from: 2.53GHz, 2.66GHz or 2.8GHz. From £1,299, these mid-level MacBook Pros offer

Apple offers three choices of desktop Mac. The Mac mini may look tiny, but it packs a punch.

CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
24-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

more screen space than the 13-inch versions and improved graphics. They now have built-in SD card slots to import your digital photos. Finally we have the daddy of the family, the 2.8GHz 17-inch version with a 500GB hard drive and up to eight hours of wireless productivity. Finally, the thin and light 13-inch MacBook Air has seen a speed boost and price drop. It does lack a built-in DVD drive and only has one USB 2.0 port, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £64.

> *"The 2.66GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro lasts up to eight hours on one charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before"*

Mac desktops

If a notebook isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £499 you get a 2.0GHz machine with 1GB RAM and 120GB hard drive, or a 2.0GHz with 2GB RAM and 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.93GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz with a 1TB hard drive, from £949. These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard and the *iLife '09* suite. ●

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

There's a new matte display option on the 15-inch MacBook Pro, and on the 17-inch model, but it will cost £40 extra.

The latest portable Macs come complete with a gorgeous and hard-wearing aluminium finish.

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20-inch 2.66GHz

£949

- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 20-inch glossy widescreen (1,680x1,050 pixels)
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.66GHz

£1,199

- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

Updated March 2009

iMac

24-inch 2.93GHz

£1,499

- 2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 3.06GHz

£1,799

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 130 with 512MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Despite being tiny, the latest Mac mini from Apple now has five USB 2.0 ports and one FireWire 800 port.

2.0GHz 120GB

£499

- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB RAM (1x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 120GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 128MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Updated March 2009

Mac mini

2.0GHz 320GB

£649

- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Mac Pro

Updated
March
2009

Quad-Core
£1,899

• 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

8-Core
£2,499

• 2x 2.66Hz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD± RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

13-inch 2.26GHz
£899

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 160GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.53GHz
£1,149

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz
£1,299

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.66GHz
£1,499

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 1.86GHz
£1,149

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm • Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 2.13GHz
£1,349

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive • Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch white 2.13GHz
£749

• 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB RAM (2x DDR2SDRAM) • 160GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm • 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR2 SDRAM • AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera • Bluetooth 2.0

15-inch 2.8GHz
£1,699

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card

17-inch 2.8GHz
£1,849

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

MacBook Air

MacBook

Updated
June
2009

MacBook Pro

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
Now Playing
Beautiful
Akon
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> *"The iPod touch has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's simply a joy to use"*

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find your ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your **iTunes** window when you're clicked on **Library** – you can get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us only listen to a fraction of our music – thanks to Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the 1GB iPod shuffle. Also available is a new 4GB shuffle, in black or silver, which introduces the VoiceOver technology. This enables the iPod to tell you what song is playing, who's performing it and what your playlist is called.

Slimline nano

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5-inch screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and the 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient. The choice of colour is vast, and there's a nano for everyone.

The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone. ●

Updated
September
2008

iPod classic

iPod classic 120GB

£175

- Up to 30,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 150 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod nano 8GB

£107

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£146

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

Updated
September
2008

iPod nano

iPod shuffle

iPod shuffle 4GB

£59

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver and black
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 1GB

£31

- Up to 240 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio) • 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

Updated March 2009

iPhone

Updated June 2009

Voice Control
call
play
shuffle
Cancel
315° NW
8 of 38
Cancel
Trim
9:42 AM

iPhone 3G 8GB

£342.50

- Available in black
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)• Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 133g For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPhone 3GS 16GB

£440.40

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPhone 3GS 32GB

£538.30

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPod touch

Updated September 2008

iPod touch 8GB

£165

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 16GB

£214

- Up to 3,500 songs
- Up to 20,000 photos
- Up to 20 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 32GB

£283

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm • 120g

>> iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

The iPhone is not just a phone – it's also a great iPod. Steve Jobs even called it "the best iPod Apple has ever made". But at 8GB the iPhone 3G is not capacious, which is annoying as the 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. The latest iPhone 3GS comes in a 32GB size, which is more like the kind of capacity you need for movies, but there are some key differences between the iPod touch and iPhone.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, but remember that this also means that the iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff is that an iPhone costs a lot more, and you also have to pay for the data you use. You either have to take out a contract with O2 or buy it on Pay & Go from £342.50.

The iPod touch currently lacks many of the iPhone's features, including a camera, voice control and digital compass although rumours are that there will be a camera on the next generation of iPod touch models. See this month's Start Up for details. To find out more about iPhone 3GS tariffs visit **www.o2.co.uk**.

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BUYERS' GUIDE

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £48 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; Requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

+ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
– Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Intuos4 L ★★★★★

Price: £430 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/590021
Key specs: 5,080lpi res; 2,083 levels of sensitivity
+ Sensational technology; dynamic OLEDs
– Expensive; previous tools incompatible

Macally mGlide ★★★★☆

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619206
Key specs: Wireless operation; small form factor
+ Perfect match for your Apple keyboard
– It's a little small

ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620

★★★★½

Price: £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi); 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette

+ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
– WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★☆

Price: £299 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603509
Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi
+ Packed with features; great text printing
– Average photo printing; expensive

Brother MFC-6890CDW ★★★½☆

Price: £309 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619221
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier/fax; OCR
+ Great if you need A3 printouts
– Workmanlike print engine

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x 1,200, 16.7 million colours, three self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

+ Beautiful colour reproduction; impressive sound; oozes quality
– Display stand needs revamping; only for Macs with Mini DisplayPort

"An incredible piece of kit for Macs with a Mini DisplayPort. Screen quality is first rate, with great consistency."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £140 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor
+ Excellent value for money
– No speakers

Hanns G Hi221DP ★★★★☆

Price: £109 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/500421
Key specs: 22-inch widescreen, 1,680x1,050 res
+ A solid performer; good looking
– Terrible built-in audio

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Sennheiser CX 300-II

★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Web: www.sennheiser.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/562193
Key specs: Frequency response 19Hz-21KHz; Impedance 16Ω; Weight 4g; Extras: three sets of cups and carry pouch

+ Superb value; great audio at a bargain price
– Slightly flabby bass; there are better buds around, but not at this price

"We can't say it loudly or plainly enough: buy a set of Sennheiser CX 300-II. Accomplished sound, and cheap."

Revo Blok ★★★★½

Price: £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/593649
Key specs: Aux input for all recent iPods
+ Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
– Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

s-JAYS SIREN Armature ★★★★☆

Price: £47 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589807
Key specs: Frequency Response: 20Hz - 20,000 Hz
+ Very comfortable
– Slightly underpowered bass response

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS 500D

★★★★☆

Price: £763 (body) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording; Card formats: SD, SDHC; File formats: JPEG, RAW.

⊕ Increased ISO sensor; HD DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic socket for video

"If you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy."

Olympus μ Tough 8000 ★★★★☆

Price: £252 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603073
Key specs: 12MP; 5-18.2mm lens
⊕ Waterproof to 10m; shockproof; good wide angle
⊖ Controls are awkward to use

Jobo photoGPS ★★★½☆

Price: £149 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/567177
Key specs: Accuracy: 10m; Recording time: 0.2 secs
⊕ Convenient geotagging for Places
⊖ Too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £498 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £599 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26 ★★★☆☆

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/561668
Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2
⊕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
⊖ Files need converting to play on Mac

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7270

★★★★★

Price: £180 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/621127
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 4x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n; modem supports ADSL and ADSL2; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including impressive array of telephony functions
⊖ No simultaneous dual band

"The router's advanced traffic-shaping feature really impressed. An extremely high quality piece of kit."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £110 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Billion BiPAC P104 ★★★★☆

Price: £85 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/560834
Key specs: Transfer rate up to 200Mbps
⊕ Great alternative to WiFi
⊖ Bulky, though this is inevitable

STORAGE

My Book Studio II 4TB

★★★★½

Price: £420 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.wdc.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/618319
Key specs: 4TB; USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800 and eSATA connectivity; can be reconfigured to different RAID settings

⊕ Four terabytes; triple interface
⊖ Not exactly cheap; chassis is a little flimsy

"Impressive performance and connection for those who need extra space. Pleasantly styled and easy on the eye."

Buffalo TeraStation III 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £667 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/604216
Key specs: 2TB capacity; 2x Gigabit Ethernet
⊕ Fast read/write performance; huge storage space
⊖ Expensive even for capacity; flimsy door

Apple Time Capsule 500GB ★★★★☆

Price: £229 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589636
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ n & g networks run at full speed; USB disk
⊖ Expensive; no built-in modem; slow first backup

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BUYERS' GUIDE

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Macally PowerLink 3-in-1

★★★★☆

Price: £42 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.macally.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/527653
Key specs: 2GB flash memory; built-in 250mAh lithium polymer battery; functions as data cable for syncing or recharging.

⊕ Ideal emergency solution. Useful trio of features
⊖ Loose caps are easily lost, and it's a little expensive

"A versatile device with a lot to offer the iPhone user, but not an essential purchase for the iPod touch."

Macally PowerPal ★★★★★

Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611989
Key specs: Four plug heads for UK, Europe, US, Asia
⊕ Only a tenner; comes with spare USB cable
⊖ Nothing

RothDock ★★★★☆

Price: £99 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611361
Key specs: Also compatible with iPhone 3G/3GS
⊕ No configuration needed; remote control
⊖ No video streaming

MAC ACCESSORIES

Shure PG27 USB Mic

★★★★☆

Price: £200 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Web: www.shure.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/611534
Key specs: Frequency response: 20Hz-20kHz; Pattern: cardioid polar; Attenuation; 0db /-20db

⊕ Great range of sound, easy to set up, on-mic monitoring capability
⊖ Single microphone use only

"Shure's PG27 mic represents the new breed of USB-based active mics. If you're after a single-mic setup, it's great."

Elgato turbo.264 HD ★★★★½

Price: £138 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/596751
Key specs: Output: iPod high/standard; iPhone; PSP
⊕ Super-fast H.264 encoding
⊖ No longer supports PowerPCs; expensive

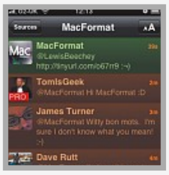
Sanho HyperMac 222Wh ★★★★★

Price: £302 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619294
Key specs: 222 watt-hours; Weight: 4.7lbs
⊕ Charges internal batteries; can power iPhone
⊖ Expensive; high-capacity models are very heavy

iPHONE APPLICATIONS

Twitterrific Premium

★★★★½



@LewisBeachey http://tinyurl.com/o67rr9 :-)
@MacFormat Hi MacFormat :D
@MacFormat Witty bon mots. I'm sure I don't know what you mean! :-)

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.iconfactory.com
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.2 or later
Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.

⊕ Lovely interface; beefed-up features list; support for multiple accounts
⊖ Reposting between accounts is tricky; basic stuff needs configuring

"An application that definitely repays the time spent exploring it. A firm favourite."

Birdhouse ★★★★★

"To tweet, or not to tweet: that is the question"
-Shak

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.1

⊕ Draft multiple Twitter notes before you tweet
⊖ Only useful if you are a complete Twitter addict

Documents To Go ★★★★☆

Documents To Go

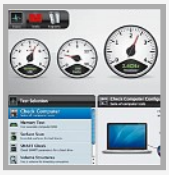
Price: £2.99 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0

⊕ A great option for creating and editing text docs
⊖ No support for RTF files; cannot edit Excel files

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Micromat TechTool Pro 5

★★★★★



Price: £98 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.micromat.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/528167
System reqs: PPC G4 or G5 or any Intel Mac; OS X 10.4.9 or later; DVD ROM drive; Quartz Extreme graphics support

⊕ Fast and stable; comprehensive tools; proactive alerts and monitors
⊖ Updated FTP disappoints

"If your budget can only accommodate one commercial system utility, make it TechTool Pro 5."

Prosoft Drive Genius 2 ★★★★½

Drive Genius 2
PRO

Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589923
System reqs: G4, G5 or Intel; OS X 10.4.9 or later
⊕ Comprehensive set of tools
⊖ RAID not supported

DiskTools Pro 3.0.2 ★★★★☆

Price: £37 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611578
System reqs: G4 or later; OS X 10.3.9 or later
⊕ Great interface; packed with features
⊖ Can't use on networked volume

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended).

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
⊖ None

FileMaker Pro 10 ★★★★★

Price: £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500402
System reqs: G4/G5; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

BeLight Printfolio

★★★★½

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Web: www.belightsoft.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/589659
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or higher; 204MB hard drive space. Product is available in English or German.

⊕ Comprehensive range of apps, as user-friendly as it could possibly be
⊖ Not great at exporting between them

"An excellent suite of design apps, offering professional results at a hobbyist price."

ImageWell 3.7.1 ★★★★½

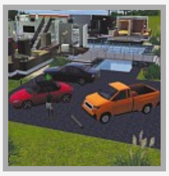
Price: $20 (£14) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/595105
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later
⊕ Efficient and feature rich; decent web tools
⊖ Ugly, clunky interface

Dream Capture ★★★★☆

Price: £7 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611327
System reqs: G5 Mac; 3.5MB disk space
⊕ Instantly saved videos; good value for money
⊖ Some file sizes very large

GAMES

The Sims 3



★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Web: www.eagames.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 2GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or GMA X3100 (GMA 950 not supported)

⊕ Looks great; more customisable; goals-based gameplay; easy to explore
⊖ It should be an online game; there are no pets

"Hopefully The Sims 4 will be a fully-interactive online game. In the meantime, The Sims 3 is the perfect sequel."

And Yet It Moves ★★★★★

Price: €12 (£11) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.andyetitmoves.net
System reqs: G4/G5/Intel 2GHz; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4
⊕ Looks and sounds great; interesting gameplay
⊖ Too short

Qwak ★★★★★

Price: £13 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.qwak.co.uk
System reqs: 5.5MB hard drive space
⊕ Old-school gameplay, 80-plus levels
⊖ It's all about points

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iPhoto '09

★★★★★

Price: £69 (iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: PowerPC G4 or G5, or any Intel Mac; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later; 4GB HDD space.

⊕ Practical tools, new options to export slideshow, Places a useful addition
⊖ Faces could be better, few cameras have GPS

"The new features are great, but there's some room for improvement in the Faces facial-recognition facility."

Ableton Live Suite 8 ★★★★☆

Price: £245 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/595098
System reqs: G4/G5; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Huge selection of effects
⊖ Not cheap

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★☆

Price: £31 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611940
System reqs: G4+; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.
⊕ Excellent features and tutorials
⊖ No texture mapping or lighting

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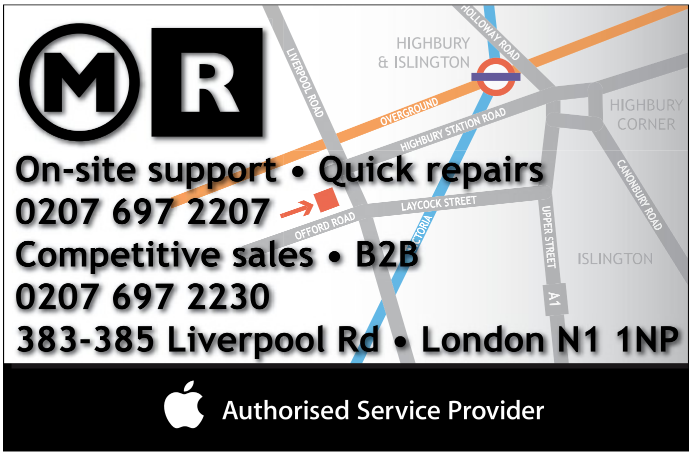
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Next month:

How to install Snow Leopard

Everything you need to know to take your first steps with Apple's new OS

MacBook Pro
Sales Forecast 2009

App Store controversy

We investigate what's really going on with Apple's approval process

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DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Share an internet connection
- Master Aperture's Light Table
- Create keyboard shortcuts

ALL THIS AND MORE!

Contents subject to change

On the disc

● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS

Welcome to the disc
Issue 213

There's no doubt that *Skype* has become an important part of many people's internet life. Enabling you to talk to other *Skype* users cheaply or for free, means you can keep in touch with friends and family all over the world. The VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) tool is also ideal for businesses who need to keep in contact with colleagues and partners. You can even share your Mac's Desktop with other Mac or PC users with the software (see our tutorial on page 54 to see how easy it is). On the disc we have the full version of *SkypeCap SE*, which enables you to record the audio of any calls you make so you can play them back at a later date. This is great for business users, as they can distribute saved calls within the organisation. Or should you utilise it for personal use, you can return to conversations with friends and family to relive important details.

> *"SkypeCap SE lets you record the audio of your Skype calls so you can play them back later on"*

We also have the full version of the 3D artwork tool *Carrara 6 Pro*, which enables you to create stunning 3D models. And if you need help keeping tabs on your finances, try out the full version on *Finance 5.0*.

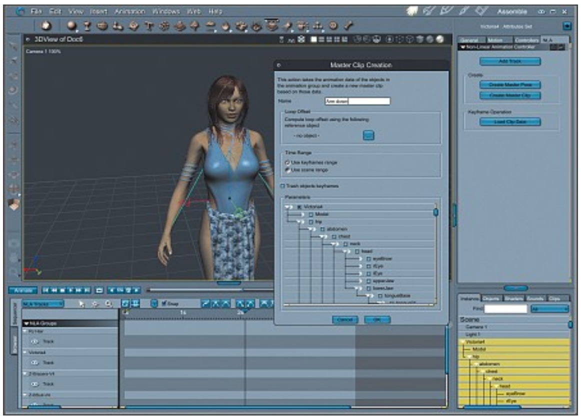
Each issue, New Media Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software for you to enjoy on your Mac.

>> FULL SOFTWARE

Carrara 6 Pro

Create stunning three-dimensional artwork

Building realistic 3D artwork is normally accompanied by a substantial price tag. Fortunately, *MacFormat* has the full version of *Carrara Pro 6* worth £370 on the disc. That means you have complete modelling tool sets, landscaping and vegetation features, ultra-rich texturing capabilities, realistic and non-photorealistic rendering all at your fingertips. *Carrara* offers wizards for pretty much everything, so it's incredibly easy to use for even absolute beginners to modelling. ●



Carrara 6 Pro is a wizard-driven app that makes 3D model creation easy.

>> FULL SOFTWARE

Finance 5.0

Keep control of all your incomings and outgoings

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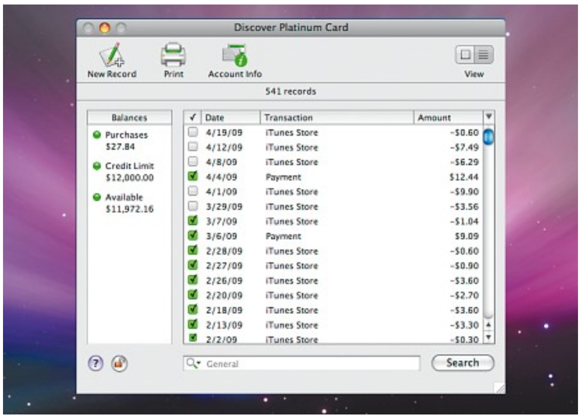

541 records

Balances
● Purchases $27.84
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● Available $11,972.16

✓	Date	Transaction	Amount
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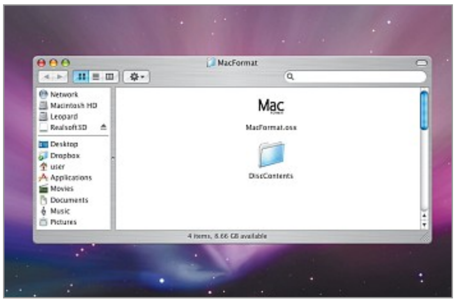
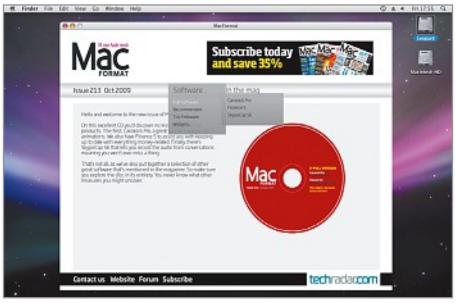
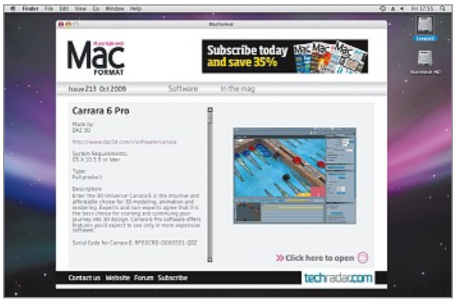
General

Banish the Excel spreadsheet and use Finance to control your cash.

HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc







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02 The software

Once loaded, accept the terms and conditions in order to go to the homepage. From here you can click Software, In The Mag or Podcast. The first two lead to sub-sections, which contain the software tools.

03 Getting the apps

Selecting an item will load details about the software. To delve straight into the app, click Click here to open. An installer will load or you will go to a window to extract the archive or execute the set-up file manually. ●

Full disc contents

The complete list to what you'll find on your disc this issue

FULL SOFTWARE

Carrara 6 Pro
Finance 5.0
SkypeCap SE

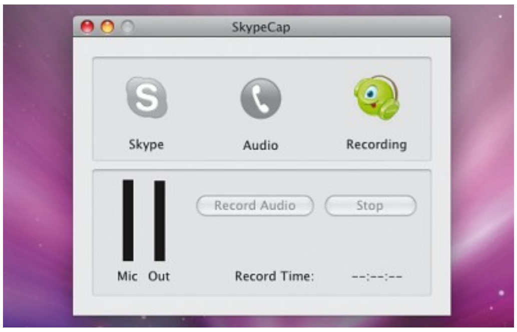
IN THE MAG

Q&A

FoneLink 2.1.5
Salling Media Sync 1.1.3
SleepWatcher 2.0.5
The Missing Sync for iPhone 2.0.2
Universal iSync PhonePlugin 2.3

Shareware

Img2icns 1.1
Nimbuzz 0.95
Stainless 0.6.5



Record your Skype audio conversations to play back at a later date.

Tutorials

DaisyDisk 1.3.4
Dock Spaces 2.45
Dropzone 0.2.6
Skype 2.8.0.659
TinkerTool 3.94

Reviews

Ulysses 2.0.1

RECOMMENDED

Finance 6.0.1
Funtastic Photos

TOP FREEWARE

Artwork Gofer 1.01
Boxer 0.85
CornerClick 0.8.2
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Dock Library 1.0
iTool 2.0.10
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SmillaEnlarger 0.8.5
Winclone 2.2

WIDGETS

Christmas Countdown 2009 3.1
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On your disc

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Mac FORMAT

ISSUE 213 / October 2009

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Future Technology coverdisc

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